COTTON FIELDS

OF

PARAGUAY AND CORRIENTES

MULHALL

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THE COTTON-FIELDS

PARAGUAY AND CORRIENTES.

THE COTTON FIELDS

PARAGUAY AND CORRIENTES:

BEING AN ACCOUNT OF A TOUR THROUGH THESE COUNTRIES, PRECEDED BY ANNALS OF COTTON-PLANTING IN THE RIVER PLATE TERRITORIES FROM 1862 TO 1864.

60649

BY MICHAEL G. MULHALL

PRICE HALF-A-CROWN.

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DEDICATION.

This little work is dedicated to the Members of the Cotton Supply Association, Manchester, in recognition of their generous and untiring efforts to promote cotton-planting in the Argentine Republic.

By their most obedient servant,

THE AUTHOR.

Buenos Ayres, April 18th, 1864.

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PREFACE

The following pages consist, for the most part, of Letters published in the "Standard," and written at various stages of my tour in quest of cotton. It cannot be expected that notes so rudely strung together should possess other merit than giving a superficial view of the cotton districts which I visited. Other travellers have written interesting books, in English and French, on those countries, but none have occupied themselves with the all-important staple now so much in demand in England, and for the cultivation of which Paraguay and Corrientes offer advantages unsurpassed by any region in the old or new hemispheres.

To inspect the plantations already made, to encourage the natives to greater efforts in this branch of industry, to learn by personal observation the facilities and impediments incidental to cotton-growing in these parts—such was the object of my tour. The many faults of this little book may, therefore, be overlooked if it succeed in giving any practical information about these new cotton fields, or serve in aught to foment the production of a staple article of River Plate exportation which promises to prove a source of incalculable riches. A mere narrative of cotton farms visited, and the number of hills each contained, would be manifestly dry reading for the public even of Manchester. Such chapters as treat of the topography, customs, or condition of the upper countries may be useful in enabling the British public to form more complete ideas respecting these *terræ incognitæ*, which now claim attention as commercial tributaries of England.

Respecting Paraguay, I regret to find that my report has been treated, in Buenos Ayres, as absurdly exaggerated. The figure of two hundred millions of cotton-hills is set down as a mistake of cyphers, as people in this city cannot realise the gigantic strides of industry and progress in that remote republic. The result may, indeed, fall far short of what we might expect from 30,000

acres of plantation; but even supposing the yield to be only equal to that of Georgia—*i. e.*, one bale per acre—and that one half the crop be lost, by want of care in pulling it, we have still 15,000 bales of ginned cotton for exportation.

Of course, a few hundred bales of cotton from the River Plate will have a thousand times more force in calling the attention of Liverpool and Manchester merchants to the new territories of Gossypium, than the most logical arguments or nice deductions that can be established. Six months will hardly elapse ere so desirable an event come to pass, and it is with this firm conviction that the present volume is sent forth as a precursor of this new era in the history of cotton and of South American industry.

M. G. MULHALL.

"Standard" Office, Buenos Ayres,
April 18th, 1864.

COTTON PROSPECTS IN LA PLATA.

Although cotton was grown and exported, many years ago, by some provinces of the Argentine Republic, the industry was abandoned and forgotten, owing to three great causes :—1st. The importation of English manufactured fabrics at a low price prevented all competition in the shape of local manufactures. 2nd. The difficulty and expense of transit rendered it impossible to produce the raw material with hope of profitable exportation. 3rd. The incessant civil wars, only lately brought to a close, converted the inhabitants of the interior into a nation of vagabonds, unfitting them for labour, and degrading them below the pale of civilization.

The war in the United States and pacification of La Plata occurring about the same time, it seemed a propitious moment for the revival of this branch of agriculture, and the "Standard" undertook to excite a cotton-fever in Buenos Ayres and the provinces. There is a Spanish proverb that "labour is only made for asses," and the native papers remained studiously silent on the important topic of the new industry, while numerous Argentine philosophers were found to ridicule cotton-planting and treat its advocates as confirmed lunatics. It was, however, cheering to meet with sympathy from hundreds of natives and foreigners who came to solicit seed, and, before the interval of a year the editors of the English papers of Buenos Ayres had the gratification to see their preaching give forth fruit in every part of the republic.

Catamarca, Mendoza, and Corrientes have sent beautiful samples of cotton grown from seed gratuitously distributed at the "Standard" office. The Deputies of San Luis, Cordoba, and Entre-Rios have come to thank the Messrs. Mulhall for their efforts in so good a cause. The Governors of Santa Fè and Corrientes have declared themselves ardent apostles of the same *propaganda*.

The National Government has been lukewarm in the matter, conscientiously believing that it was a farce, or perhaps a dodge of the English paper to gain popularity by affecting extraordinary patrictism. The Government of the

province of Buenos Ayres either judged the climate unpropitious, or condemned the subject as coming from a suspicious quarter, for the French had recently taken Puebla, and it was feared that Great Britain intended to annex Cape Horn.

Meantime the English Parliament turned its eyes towards the Salado Valley, and Consul Hutchinson was sent on an expedition, the result of which was a report that the country was most favourable for cotton-planting, but the cost of labour, and freight to Rosario, would swallow up the profits. The riverine provinces of Santa Fè, Entre Rios, and Corrientes, possessing the advantages of cheap water communication, still entertained hopes of making a successful experiment; and, through the assistance of the Manchester Association they were supplied with large quantities of seed.

The Santa Fè plantations came to nothing; probably they existed only in the imagination of Governor Cullen, for, if the seed was ever distributed it was never put down, the return of cotton-fields for 1861 being *nil*. In several parts of Entre-Rios the fever showed itself, and the Government having granted 5,500 acres gratis for a joint-stock plantation, the Gelabert and one or two other companies were formed: nearly a million cotton-hills were laid down in the province, the crop of which is now ripe and will probably amount to one hundred bales. The Government of Corrientes was the only one which fully appreciated the new staple: every department of the province was induced by grants of seed and land, coupled with an exemption from taxes, to sow largely, and about three million cotton-hills sprung up. Some were destroyed by a worm, but, in spite of this calamity, the plantations next year will be increased tenfold, and this year's crop may be estimated at 400 bales.

The President of Paraguay was not slow to initiate an industry so congenial to the climate and likely to give splendid returns. In 1862 some trifling experiments were made, and a few dozen bales sent next year to Manchester, Antwerp, and Havre, gave such good results that the planting of cotton was made compulsory throughout the country, and the enormous extent of 30,000 acres devoted to this branch of agriculture.

The Government of Banda Oriental also fostered the good work, and seed was gratuitously distributed in several districts of the republic. Unhappily a feeble Government invited the ambitious designs of the filibuster Flores, and the country has since been plunged in a civil war, which effectually annihilates industry and progress.

The efforts made have, however, sufficed to show that the climate of La Plata is highly suitable for cotton-growing, that this industry will give magnificent profits, that the Governments of some of the provinces are anxious to lend every assistance thereto, and that landholders are becoming sensible of the immense importance of such a staple. The termination of the American war, when it happens, may check the cotton-fever, but the crop for 1865 will assuredly exceed 5,000 bales in this republic, and ten times that figure in Paraguay.

Mr. Wheelwright, moreover, promises to sow cotton along the line of the Cordoba Railway, in the land granted by the Argentine Government. Hitherto he has been always true to his word, and the Central Railroad will further facilitate cotton-growing in the interior, by cheapness of freight, so that Mendoza, Catamarca, San Luis, and Cordoba will also turn to account their waste lands. In the province of Buenos Ayres several experiments have been made, but only a few have succeeded. The climate seems too cold, and the high value of land and dearness of labour almost preclude all hope of raising cotton in this province.

PROPOSED COTTON ASSOCIATION, OUTLAY, &c.

Grants of land, free of rent and taxes, may be obtained for cotton planting in Corrientes, Entre-Rios, Santa Fè, and other provinces of this republic. Labor is often scarce, and the natives not much to be relied on, as an industrial element, yet when well paid they sometimes surpass themselves, as we have seen among the gauchos employed at piece-work on the Cordova Railway. Freight down the Parana is very cheap, and we have steamers and small sailing craft in abundance, which would convey to B. Ayres any quantity of cotton at one real per arrobe, or a farthing per lb.

With such signal advantages, it is evident that a cotton-growing association must prove a highly lucrative enterprise. It must be further observed that the average yield in some of the above provinces has been found more than double that of the Southern States of North America.

Sor. Blanco. Deputy for Mendoza, makes the following calculation for a cotton-farm of 35 acres (10 cuadras):—

	Dols.
Rent of 10 squares at 30 dols.,	300 (Bolivian)
Farming implements	350
Hire of 20 pair bullocks	100
Sowing—Wages to 4 men at 120	480
Weeding—Do. to 5 men at 100	500
Plucking—Do. to 20 women (60 days)	240
,, to 4 men at 12 dols. per month	96
Wages to overseer at 20 dols., 5 months	100
Sheds, &c., for crop	200
Cotton-gin	100
Press for baling	300
Sundries	300
Amount	3066 = £450 sterling.

If the cotton hills be planted a yard and a half distant on every side, each cuadra will give 10,000, which represent the same number of pounds of unginned cotton. Allowing one-fourth for losses of all kinds, there will remain 7,500 lbs., of which three-fourths are seed and the rest, 1,875 lbs., clean cotton; or five bales per cuadra. This will shew the following result:—

	Do's.
18,500 lbs. clean cotton, at 3 rls.	6,937
Farming implements, less 10 p ℅ for use	760
Total value	7,697 = £1154
Expenses	410
Nett profit on 10 cuadras	£694 sterling.

The price set down for the cotton is but 3 Bolivian reals (13½ pence) which leaves an ample margin for freight, baling, &c., as clean cotton easily fetches 1s.d. per lb. in Buenos Ayres. It will be seen that seed does not enter as an item, being of such trifling value. The above returns give a clear gain of 50 per cent on the capital invested, although based on an extremely moderate calculation.

It would be, however, easy to realise much larger profits, by getting up an association after the manner proposed by the Government of Corrientes—*i. e.*, sending out 100 families of the starving Lancashire operatives. According to the American calculation, of 10 acres to each laborer, such a colony could raise and manage 1000 acres of a cotton plantation. The land is offered free, on the banks of the Paraná; timber is to be had gratis, in abundance, for constructing block huts fences, &c. Beef, cheese, &c., cost very little, and the only serious expenses would be the passage by ship, and agricultural implements. If an association were formed for five years, giving the colonists free passage, maintenance for that term, one-fifth of the profits, and the plantation, implements, &c, at the end of the term, the result would be equally advantageous to the share-holders, colonists, and the province of Corrientes. The scale would stand thus:—

Passage of 500 adults and children	£2,000
Farming implements, seed, gins, and presses	1,000
Horses, oxen, &c.	1,500
Salaries to overseer, book-keeper, and schoolmaster	500
Beef (and cereals 1st year) for the colony	2,500
	£7,500

The yield of 1000 acres at the lowest calculation would be 500,000 lbs., which gives the following:—

500,000 lbs. at 2s, ...	£50,000
Four instalments of passage, for after years	1,600
Four do. implements, gins, &c	800
Horses, oxen, &c.	1,500
	£53,900
Expenses of colony	7,500
Do. freight from Corrientes to England	5,000
Nett profit	£41,400

Of the last sum, one-fifth would fall to the colonists, being nearly £8,400, or £84 per family. The balance (£33,000) coming to the shareholders would give them 450 per cent per annum on their total outlay.

Capitalists would do well to study these figures. If the limit of these pages would permit, I should enter into further particulars. The above, however, is intended only as an outline shewing the approximate expenses and gains of such an association, under the circumstances.

ANNALS OF COTTON-PLANTING

IN THE

RIVER PLATE REPUBLICS

AND

PARAGUAY.

March 25th, 1862.—Leading article in the 'Standard' urging on the people and Government the expediency of planting cotton in Buenos Ayres and the provinces.

April 3rd—Leading article in the 'Standard' on the advantages of cotton-planting, and its suitability to the Argentine Confederation.

April 10th—We are informed some parties intend asking Government for some islands in the Paraná, to experiment cotton-growing.

April 12th—Advices from the Chief of Police of Agraciada, Banda Oriental, that cotton grows wild in that department: samples sent to Montevideo. We are promised samples of Catanmarca cotton.

April 25th—It is believed President Lopez intends to try cotton planting in Paraguay on a large scale.

May 1st—The English Consul at Rosario, Dr. Hutchinson, is said to have in view a cotton-growing establishment, and public report goes that he has solicited some islands in the Paranà for this branch of industry, so congenial to

our climate. Another gentleman has formed the project of bringing some thousands of Irishmen to Bahia Blanca, where he intends to establish this cultivation on a large scale.

May 15th—We learn by the last mail that numerous joint-stock companies have been established both in England and Belgium, for the purpose of growing cotton in Venezuela, Chili, Banda Oriental, and other parts of South America. Buenos Ayres, however, is left out.

June 16th—Mr. Edward A. Hopkins, late American Consul in Paraguay, has given us three little bags, of about 1 lb. each, Egyptian, Georgian, and Sea Island seed, sent him by the U. S Patent-office.

Advertisement.—Samples of American cotton seed can be seen at the 'Standard' Office, and we are authorised to state that any responsible parties with a bona fide intention of experimenting in cotton-growing in any part of this province, will be supplied gratis with seed, &c.

June 23rd—Mr. Hopkins presents us with the United States Patent-office Reports, from which we extract, largely, opinions and instructions about cotton-growing.

June 25th—Another article on cotton-planting.

The applications for cotton seed at the "Standard" office have been so numerous that we will apply, by this packet, for seed to the society in Manchester.

July 1st—Last August, Mr. Kitchen, while travelling through Santa Fe, saw cotton growing wild in many parts, and has sent us samples which he gathered near the colony of Esperanza, about seven leagues from Rosario.

We have forwarded by this packet samples of Santa Fe cotton to Manchester. The inquiry and demand for seed is so great that we have written to Manchester for some, which we expect by return steamer.

In San Fernando, Moron, Flores, and in many parts of the camp, several gentlemen have sown cotton on trial, and have promised to report progress when the plants come up.

July 2nd—'La Republica,' of Montevideo, publishes from the 'Standard' some of our observations on cotton-growing, and we shall be only too happy to receive any communications from the Banda Oriental on this subject. We promise all our friends seed, who wish to sow it.

A gentleman in Paysandù applies for seed.

July 9th—Our present stock of seed is getting very low, and we fear it will

be run out before we get our expected supply from the Manchester Cotton Association.

The following gentlemen have taken it to plant in various places: —

General Nazar, Buenos Ayres; Bleumstein and La Roche, Moron; Palemon Huergo, Barracas; Francisco Balbin, Las Conchas; James Brittain, San Isidro Luis Chapeaurouge, Buenos Ayres; Thomas Donohoe, S. A. de Areco; Henry Harratt, San Vincente; John Hannah, Ranchos; Martin Gonzalez, Buenos Ayres; Richard Newton, Chascomus.

July 10th—We publish instructions for planting.

July 11th—Received following letter:—

"British Consulate, Rosario, July 9th, 1862.

"My dear Sir,

"Will you be good enough to acquaint Mr. Kitchen that I have got two cotton-gins for cleaning the article, and that I am ready to buy any for a fair price, whether it comes from Esperanza—which I think is a little nearer to Rosario than to Buenos Ayres—or from Entre Rios and Corrientes.

"Yours truly,

"J. J. HUTCHINSON."

July 20th—We have supplied, and are still supplying, cotton seed to all responsible parties who apply for it; and we hope in Spring to be able to publish the accounts which we expect to receive from all those who have experimented through our means.

Cotton-growing in Entre Rios has for many years existed, on a small scale; and we are informed that the Government of that province has taken the matter in hand, and will begin, on its own account, some couple of hundred acres.

July 24th—Mr. Perkins, editor of 'El Diario,' of Rosario, proposes to sow cotton in the islands of the Paraná and Uruguay.

"The islands of the Parana," he says, "vary in extent from one mile to several leagues; the climate may be said to be identical with that of the cotton districts of Georgia, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

July 26th—Letter from Mr. Colman, of Salto, Banda Oriental, asking for seed, but holding out little hope of planting with profit.

July 30th—We have just supplied some cotton seed to the Governor of Santa Fe and Sr. Miró.

Aug. 3rd—The following parties have been supplied with cotton seed from the 'Standard' office :

Mr. Coleman, Salto, Uruguay; Don Pedro P. Fau, Moron ; Mr. Henry Zimmermann, Buenos Ayres ; Sr. Don Ramon Maria Cavenago, Buenos Ayres ; Mr. Peter Healy, partido Pilar ; Sor. Don Mariano A. Pelliza, Buenos Ayres ; Mr. Pelvilian, Belgrano : Mr. F. Mahon, Buenos Ayres.

August 4th—Yesterday our office was again invaded by applicants for this article, which we have freely distributed as follows :—

Don Calixto Oliver, Gualeguay ; Don Francisco Carulla, Buenos Ayres ; Don S. Villarino, Chivilcoy ; Don Roberto Wilson, Buenos Ayres ; Don T. B. Coffin, Moron ; Don Silas Atkins, Buenos Ayres.

The first named of these gentlemen assures us that he has already cultivated it with very signal success in Entre Rios.

August 10th—The following are the names of the gentlemen who have been last supplied :—

Mr. Thomas Bicker, Guardia del Monte ; Mr. Paul Ramos, Buenos Ayres ; Mr. Terence Moore, do ; Mr. Buschental, do.

Aug. 12th—Letter from Rosario :

" A friend of my family in this neighbourhood lately sent home to Liverpool, for inspection, some samples of cotton fibre, of which he has received a valuation by the French mail which arrived with you last week, and which left Bordeaux on the 24th of June. Here are the estimated values, such as they could be divined from the very small quantities sent.

Specimen from Cordoba—1s. to 1s. 0¾d. per pound.

Do. Catamarca—1s. 8d. to 1s. 10d. per pound.

Do. Santa Fe—1s. to 1s. 1d per pound.

Do. Parana—1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d per pound.

Do. Tucuman—1s. 3d per pound.

Aug. 18th—Extract from mail news :

" Mr. Layard stated in the House of Commons that it was intended to take steps to ascertain the cotton-growing capabilities of the Argentine Republic, and when the inspection was completed a report would be made"

Aug. 20th—During the last few days we have distributed seed to the following persons :—Mr. Owen Lynch, Lujan ; Mr. James Harrison, Lobos ; Sr. Jose M. Gimenez, Corrientes ; Sr. J. Martinez, Buenos Ayres ; Sor. Don Luis

Lagos, Matanzas; Mr. Bieber, Buenos Ayres; Sor. D. Guigliazza, Once Septembre.

Aug. 25th—Letter from Mr. Colman, of Salto, B. Oriental:

"My few plants in the Chacra already show signs of sprouting, and I fully expect they all will give cotton this year. They dried up to within a couple of inches of the ground, from being frostbitten; but the stem looks green and healthy, and I have no doubt will grow double the size they were last year. I shall have much pleasure in forwarding you some cotton when ripe, to send to your friends in England, to have their opinion regarding its merits."

We have supplied seed to the following gentlemen:—Mr. Woodgate, Villa Mercedes; Mr. Thomas Allen, Buenos Ayres.

Sept. 2nd—The Rosario papers have taken up our suggestion, and recommend the cultivation of cotton in that province.

Two millions of cotton plants have been planted this year by General Lopez in Paraguay.

Sept. 4th—Extract from catalogue of articles contributed by Montevideo at the London Exhibition:—"No. 17. Two glass jars of wild cotton."

The cultivation of cotton in Uruguay has never been carried to any extent; but it is perfectly well established that cotton in large quantities could be produced in several portions of the republic. The samples shown were grown in a wild state, but are nevertheless remarkable for their length of staple, as has been attested by an eminent member of the Manchester Cotton Supply Association at the Exhibition. In time, Uruguay may become a fine cotton-producing country, population being the chief requirement.

Sept. 11th—Extract from 'Cotton Supply Reporter':—

"Reports have repeatedly reached this country of the magnificent cotton fields in the Argentine Confederation of South America. There is every reason to believe that these reports are well founded. The Cotton Supply Association have recently had the opportunity of inspecting a number of samples from different provinces of the Confederation, which had been forwarded in the first instance to Messrs. Stolterfoht, Sons, and Co, of Liverpool. They were of the long fibred variety, and very fine in quality. One specimen was valued at the rate of 22d. per lb., and another at 20d. Yet the whole of the samples were gathered from the plants growing wild, the remains of former culture gradually dying away from neglect occasioned by the introduction of British manufactured goods."

Sept. 12th—We are informed that one gentleman in Sta. Fé has contracted for laying down 50,000, and another in Corrientes 30,000 cotton hills.

Sept. 17th—Sr. Ximenez, of Corrientes, applies to us for a cotton gin. We refer him to Consul Hutchinson.

Sept. 20th—Consul Hutchinson's first report on cotton prospects in the interior provinces (dated May 5th, 1862).

Sept. 21st—Important letter from S. Fe, signed "Gossypium," showing that cotton will give a nett profit of £50 per acre.

Sept. 25th—Letter from Mr. Henry Vidal, Cerrito, Entre Rios:

"I have cultivated the cotton plant on a small scale for many years, at my place, and people who pretend to know, say that it is of better quality than that which comes from Corrientes; but this may arise from a difference in the seed.

"I used to sow it in October, from five to six feet apart: the first year the crop was not much, but for the next sixteen to twenty years, it produced much more. In the beginning of the winter, it is necessary to cut down the plants to about four inches from the ground and to cover them with leaves, sand, or earth, to protect them from the frost."

"Before the spring, the ground between the plants should be cleaned.

Sept. 26th—Consul Hutchinson will not part with his gin, but places it at the disposal of the public, in his own house. M. Cavenago publishes cotton-planting instructions in his Labrador Argentino.

We have on exhibition specimens of Santa Fe, Salto, Corrientes, and Paraguay cotton, with a table of the respective values of all the cottons of the Argentine provinces.

We give seed to the following persons:—

D. Torquato Alvear, B. Ayres; D. Juan Almagro, San A. de Areco; D. M. Brunet, Paraná Islands; D. Rosenthal Gayen, Buenos Ayres; D. T. Gowland, Buenos Ayres; D. H. Arelaus, Buenos Ayres.

Oct. 1st—400 arrobes of cotton expected from this year's crop in Corrientes.

Oct. 2nd—Another letter from Gossypium.

Oct 3rd—We understand Messrs. John P. Boyd and Co. have generously resolved to ship the first bales of Argentine cotton exported hence, free of charge, commission, freight, &c,

Senator Cullen, of Sta. Fé, visits us, and promises to promote a cotton fever in his province.

We give public notice that our stock of seed is out.

Oct. 6th—Another letter from Gossypium.

We have placed on exhibition at the Bolsa samples of Uruguay cotton grown by Mr. Coleman, very fine; also Sta. Fe wild do., gathered by Mr. Kitchen; and Paraguay vegetable wool, an extraordinary product, the property of Mr. Murray, Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Mr Wilson, who received some seed from us, has called to say that the Georgian seed has come up beautifully, and looks well.

Oct. 14th—Letter from the Association:

"Manchester, Sept. 5th, 1862.

"The Committee of this Association are desirous that necessary facilities should be given for the successful prosecution of cotton growing experiments at Buenos Ayres. They have, therefore, determined to send out a quantity of cotton seed, and one or two cotton gins, and will place the same in your hands, with every confidence that good use will be made of them, and that if possible the value of the machines (invoice of which shall accompany them) will be returned to the Association in the form of cotton raised from the seed."

Oct. 18th—Another letter from Gossypium, and again on the 22nd and 25th inst.

Oct. 23rd—Montevideo has taken the lead in the cotton movement. We read that the Government has imported, at its own cost, a large quantity of seed from New Orleans, and is now distributing it to all the estancieros in the country, 'ad libitum.' We hope President Mitre will take a wrinkle from the Orientals.

Oct. 28th—Mr. Doria, H.B.M. Charge d'Affaires, having appreciated our efforts in the culture of cotton, has kindly presented us with some cotton and cotton seed, which he has brought from Paraguay.

Nov 1st—Letter from Senator Cullen:

"Having heard that you gratuitously distribute cotton-seed, with the noble purpose of making this staple, what it must one day become, an export of the country, I take this opportunity to beg you will forward me as large a quantity as possible, as I have firmly resolved to do all in my power to make plantations on a large scale in my native province of Santa Fe."

Our stock is out, but we expect a fresh supply.

Nov. 8th—Sor. Ximenez, who is a large property holder in Corrientes, has favoured us with the following account of cotton planted on his estancia:—

RETURN OF COTTON.

(Planted up to this date.)

Ild. Brest—Egyptian seed	... ...	47 plots.
„ Georgian do.	... ...	23 „
„ English do	... ...	202 „
„ Naon (Nankin)	... ...	40 „
„ Correntina	... ...	19,796 „
200 ridges with plots	... ...	20,108
Eugenio Lopez – Correntine seed, 96 ridges, with plots	... ...	7,272
Total number of plots,	... ...	27,380

Nov. 15th—Arrival of a Scotch gentleman, who comes to this country for the sole purpose of planting cotton. He has brought a large quantity of seed and two gins, and, we understand, intends to begin operations in one of the islands of the Paraná.

Nov. 16th—Letter from the Association:

Manchester 8th Oct., '62.

Dear Sirs,

I last had this pleasure on the 5th ult. I now beg to hand you bill of lading of 5 cwt. of Egyptian cotton seed and two cotton gins, shipped to you per "Lady of the Lake."

I enclose, as a guide to you in the disposal of the seed, an invoice showing its cost price to us. I have not received the invoices of the gins from the makers, but the one made by Platt, Bros. and Co., will cost about £23, and the other £11. Invoices will, however, be forwarded by the next mail. A further quantity of seed also be forwarded in a short time.

The committee desire me to say that they will be extremely glad to hear from you, from time to time, as to the progress of the cotton grown from this seed.

I forward you, by this mail, some pamphlets on cotton cultivation, for distribution.

I am, dear sirs, yours truly,

G. R. Haywood, Secretary.

Nov. 24th—Numerous applications daily for seed. The Lady of the Lake not yet arrived. Sor. Ximenes wishes to engage ten English families for his estate in Corrientes.

Nov 25th—Our Scotch friend, with two bags of seed, loses hope in cotton, and purposes buying sheep at Chascomus.

Nov. 28—Sor. Ximenes' plantation now counts 702 ridges, comprising 50,619 hills.

Nov. 30th—Several samples of cotton, reported to be of fair quality, have been sent from Paysandu to this city.

The Municipality of Montevideo have received a quantity of seed, which they are distributing to the agriculturists of the suburbs.

Dec. 1st—Received, per mail steamer, letter, seed, and gins:

"Liverpool, 26th Sept.

"Herewith we take leave to hand you bill of lading of four bags, containing 5 cwt. of Egytian cotton seed, marked M—B. R. 1|4, and three cases of cotton gins, same mark, No. 1|3, which we have shipped to your consignment per 'Lady of the Lake.'

"We have made this shipment by desire of the Secretary to the Cotton Supply Association, and trust the packages will arrive in good order.

"We remain, dear sirs, yours truly,

"Mosley, Hurst, & Co."

Northern Railway Inauguration banquet at Belgrano: M. G. Mulhall toasts "Cotton," announcing the arrival of seed and gins.

Dec. 14th—Symptoms of cotton-fever in Santiago: still more in Corrientes.

Dec. 17th—Seed now three weeks in port, but not yet landed.

Dec. 18th—Mr. Wilson's cotton plants are 18 inches high. Those seeds deposited in a high sandy loam have got on badly, while a good vegetable garden soil has been very favourable, and a stiff clayey stratum best of all. The plants have been watered once, and the surface kept open; they are transplanted freely. Mr. G. Lumb also flatters himself on being completely successful in his experiments.

Seed and gins landed to-day.

Dec. 19th—Despatched seed to a gentleman from Tucuman, who has bought a gin of Messrs. Shaw and Barber. Sor. Ximenes reports his plantation 70,000 hills, although some missed: he wants more seed. We have also orders for

1 cwt. each for Santa Fe, Entre Rios, and Corrientes. Some plants in the Club Estrangero, of this city, are doing well.

Dec. 20th—The Minister of Interior sends us an order for 2 cwt. of seed. M. Cavenago's treatise nearly finished. Consul Hutchinson expects seed and gins from Manchester. D. Josè Frias, of Sevil Redondo, Tucuman, exhibits on 'Change cotton samples. His plantation is 10,000 hills, to be increased next year to 200,000.

Dec. 24th—The Customs Inspector demands duties on seed and gins. Among 100 customers is General Urquiza. We charge $2 (3½d.) per lb. to cover expenses. Letters from San Antonio, Carmen de Areco, Flores, and Conchas report the experiment successful, in spite of frost. The plants also look well in Lezama's quinta, and Mr. Price's garden.

Mr. Cavenago writes—"Please give me 12 lbs. more for the National Government."

1863.—January 1st—The National Government permits us to import cotton seed and gins duty free. Great demand for seed.

January 8th. An Irish farmer of Areco (B. A.) applies for 6 lbs. seed, and reports his plants "doing well, 12 inches high, and of a dark green color."

January 10—Schemes for cotton planting occupied attention in Santiago. Mr. Wilson has favoured us with a bouquet from his quinta, of cotton flowers, grown from the seed which we gave him in August. In the partido of Arrecifes, several native gentlemen have begun sowing cotton on a small scale.

January 11th—The Governor of Mendoza writes to the Minister of the Interior that his province offers every facility for cotton-growing.

January 12th—Circular from the department of the Interior.

Buenos Ayres

To his Excellency the Governor of the Province of

.....

The cultivation of cotton in our country is at present engaging the attention of all men interested in the development of national wealth, and the National Government following this general movement desires also to aid, within the sphere of its action, the development of this new industry which, once radicated in the Republic, offers the most cheerful hopes for the future.

With this notice I remit to your Excellency a small quantity of cotton seed with a Manual for its cultivation hoping that it will be distributed for planting.

Some time hence your Excellency will receive a greater quantity of seed as

the Government expects much more of good quality; and a work is being prepared for publication with more extensive details for its cultivation, which will be sent as soon as ready.

May God preserve Y. E

GUILLERMO RAWSON.

January 20th—Mr. Cabal of Salto finds his cotton plantations (10 acres) attacked by ants which have already destroyed a great portion: he has, however, sent to Chile for some ant killers, small insects, one of them able to destroy a whole nest.

January 22nd—Sr. Ximenes, of Corrientes, takes one of our cotton gins to Goya, on board a vessel to sail to-day.

January 24th—We learn from Senator Cullen of Santa Fé, that the cotton-seed which we gave him has come up beautifully, and that, in that province every one is preparing to sow cotton, on a large scale, next spring.

January 29th—General Urquiza replied to Dr. Rawson's cotton circular, that he is of a favorable opinion but that he has received neither the seed nor Mr Cavenago's *vade mecum*. We believe, however, that some of the supply we forwarded H E. is already springing up in San Josè, as the General took the field before the National Government.

Governor Lagraña of Corrientes, who aspires to the title "his Cotton Excellency," thinks Dr. Rawson has played him a practical joke, sending him 12 lbs. of cotton seed, when he proposes to plant 12 tons, in joint-stock Co. He received the pamphlet, but no seed, and seems to ask Dr. R. what use is the former without the latter?

Feb. 1st—To-day, in our 'patio,' we had one of the cotton gins at full work. Probably it is the first of the kind that was ever put up in this continent.

The "Comercio del Salto" states that the Junta of that city is distributing small quantities of Upland, Egyptian, and Sea Island cotton-seed. The "Comercio" publishes as Folletin the Manual for this industry, by Antonio Caravia. Some cotton plants of great antiquity exist in the neighborhood of Salto: Samples of these were sent to the London Exhibition by the Montevidean Government.

Our friend, Mr. Puente has just arrived from Paranà with good news for Gossypium. He has taken all the seed which remained on our hands, some 80 lbs, for the estancieros and gardeners, who expect to raise fine cotton-fields on the fertile coast between Diamante and Parana. He mentions having seen

trees which have borne for 5 years, and measured one 12 feet high with a trunk 15 inches in circumference. Entre Rios will be second only to Corrientes in the cotton fever, and its fluvial communication and proximity to this port eminently fit it to produce this staple. Excellent land may be purchased under $100.000 (£700) per league.

We read that the 12lbs. package of seed forwarded by the Nat. Government, has arrived at Mendoza and been distributed; but Mr. Puente assures us that E Rios will require larger supplies, taking the first monthly importation of 2 tons which we expect shortly. Cotton has been sown by order of Government, and the experiments of San Jose and Paraná have proved so successful that Urquiza is about to propose a law for the protection of this industry.

Feb. 12th—Governor Cullen of Santa Fe, has acknowledged receipt of the cotton seed sent him by the National Government, and asks for more, stating his belief that it will prosper in that province,

Feb. 16th - Since the commencement of the American war our neighbours in Brazil have devoted especial attention to cotton growing, and we are glad to learn from an English paper, that the crop for 1863 is valued at 20 millions patacons.

Feb. 18th—Two parties were in our office this morning for seed, and one old gentleman who sowed some of our seed in the islands is perfectly cotton mad. He states that the plants are over three feet high, and nothing could grow better on the Islands than this cotton.

We have received five bags per British Mail, from the Cotton Supply Association of Manchester. We shall distribute it to the public as usual on payment of freight.

Extracts of Letter from the Association: —

Manchester, 19th Dec. 1862.

Messrs. M. G. & E. T. Mulhall,
Standard Office, Buenos Ayres.

Dear Sirs,

The samples per "Mersey" were duly received and are very satisfactory; A. has been valued at 1s. 10d. to 1s. 11d, and B. at 1s. 9d. per lb. Middling Orleans being worth 1s 11d. to 1s. 11d½ per lb.

The Committee see with great pleasure the growing interest taken in the cultivation of cotton in your province, and are desirous of giving what aid they

can to the movement. They are about to send you 5 cwt. of Egyptian seed which will be forwarded immediately on its arrival from Alexandria.

I am dear Sirs, yours truly

G. R. Haywood.

Feb. 19th—We have despatched 50lbs. of the new supply to D. A. Lara of Corrientes: that province will certainly surpass the rest in cotton-growing. Sor Cavenago has shewn us the blossom of some seed we gave him last November: it came over ground in 8 days, and each plant has about a dozen flowers.

Ministry of the Interior.

Buenos Ayes, Feb. 13th, 1863.

Messrs. M. G. & E. T. Mulhall.

In answer to your note mentioning your importation of cotton seed, the following has been decreed.

Let it be replied that the Nat. Government will take 4 quintals of cotton-seed, to be distributed throughout the Provinces, the importers presenting their accounts for the same, to be paid by order of this Ministry.

Which I inform you, for your guidance.

May God preserve you many years.

Guillermo Rawson.

Feb. 20th—An elderly Italian from the Islands of Parana took 38 lbs. of seed, Mr. Bushental who has a celebrated quinta at Montevideo has asked us for sufficient to plant a manzana. Mr. Bunsen, who resides on the banks of the Yi, in Banda Oriental, wrote to us for 30 lbs. Mr. Nelson of San Vicente and Mr. Gilbert of Ensenada have planted each about half a cuadra. Mr. White's crop in Belgrano is quite a curiosity, and he says he will plant, next year, on a much larger scale; he has also experimented successfully in the islands. Mr. Cavenago has paid us the freight and expenses of the first supply we gave Government for the Provinces

Feb. 22nd—A correspondent from Cañuelas writes:—I sowed about half a pound of the cotton seed which you gave. It is all over-ground; very few seeds missed, I sowed a little more, for a sample in boxes, in the patio, which has come up nicely; and I gave to a neighbor about two oz.; he steeped the seed in water about 20 hours previous to sowing it, and in three days it was nearly all up. The remainder I intend keeping until Spring, unless some neighbors feel desirous for some.

Feb. 22nd.—Relative to cotton planting in the neighborhood of B. Ayres.—On Friday evening we took occasion to visit Mr. Wilson's quinta in calle Santa Fé where our efforts in cotton-planting were first crowned with success. Some years ago Mr. Hale made the experiment in his garden near Pobre Diablo, and Mr. Patrick Brown in 1850 boasted cotton trees as a horticultural ornament in his grounds at the Misérere Mr. Wilson's plants stand about three feet above ground, spreading their branches over a superficies of a square yard; and each trunk supports 50 or 60 pods. The flower is very beautiful, and the pod large and globular.

We learn that Sor. Sivori has also some fine cotton-plants in his quinta at 11 Setiembre, and Mr. James White, of elgrano, is raising a crop of some *cuadras* in extent. Mr. Hannah of Ranchos reports favorably of the seed we transmitted him through Dr. Gibbings. An Italian agriculturist of Entre Rios took from us, yesterday, a supply of 50 lbs., and asked for double that quantity, but the Nat. Government taking 400 lbs. for the Provinces leaves us only a few lbs. on hand. Sor Aldao has another plot of cotton at Hueco de Sauce.

Feb. 25th—We inspected Mr. White's cotton plantation at Belgrano; the plants are a little behind time, but seem coming on well. Next October Mr. White purposes planting on a large scale, in the fields adjoining the river.

Feb. 27th—By this packet we have written to the Cotton Supply Association, for more seed and gins

Feb. 28th The Legislature of Cordova is going to assign a prize to the best and largest cotton grower in that province. In Santiago del Estero, cotton is enthusiastically advocated, and the Manual for planting re-produced as a *folletin* in the columns of *El Pueblo*.

March 1st—Letter from Salto, Banda Oriental:—

Enclosed I have the pleasure of forwarding you a small sample of the Cotton wool, grown from the Georgian seed you were so kind as to forward me some months ago. It appears to be of fine quality, strong staple, and good colour, the sample is from one head, the seed having been separated for sowing next season. The plants are in fine healthy condition, but have suffered much from a green caterpillar. Each plant has about from 60 to 80 bolls, which have just commenced ripening, and the plants are still continuing to flower. This kind appears to be most adapted for cultivation in this department, being far more

advanced than the plants of last year growing from native seed, as they show no signs of giving cotton for a month yet. I expect it is the first sample you have received from any one to whom you have distributed seed. I have also delivered a similar sample to our worthy Chief of Police, D. Antonio Savarra, who forwards it by this conveyance to Montevideo.

Dear Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY G. COLEMAN.

March 3rd—The British barque "Adamantine,' from Liverpool, lost on the English bank in the River Plate, and had on board about 2 tons Cotton seed, and several gins, consigned to a British house in this city. Mr. Witz has received from the Minister of the colonies in France, 60lb. of cotton seed. which he will distribute at his house.

March 6th—Mr. Kerr has received four bags of different kinds of cotton-seed, and distributes it gratis to all who will plant it. We have no more cotton-seed in our office, and every day parties are calling for some; so Mr. Kerr's supply comes very *apropos*. Yesterday, Dr. R. Perez and another gentleman called on us for seed to send to Santa Fe.

March 7th—Sr Calisto Olivero, of Parana who received some cotton seed from us, publishes in the *Litoral* an account of his plantation, in which he states that the seed we gave him came up well, and that his little cotton-field is the admiration of the whole country.

March 5th—We send to the Minister of the Interior pamphlets in Spanish on the subject of Cotton growing, with a requisition that they may be forwarded to each of the Governors of the provinces.

April 3rd.—Received letter from the Association :

Manchester 23d Feb. 1863.

Dear Sirs,

I had this pleasure last on the 7th ultimo, and am since in receipt of your esteemed of the 15th ult.

Your letters replied to by the last mail, were laid before the Executive Committee, and orders have been sent to New York, to purchase seed to be forwarded to you monthly. In the meantime, you willl receive, by the next steamer from Southampton, half a ton of seed, and if seed can be obtained, it shall be forwarded monthly.

April 9th—We bought of Mr. Magolle, of the Diamante, 18 arrobes (450lbs. of cotton, in the seed, at the rate of 9 dols, m|c per arrobe equivalent to 10d per lb. This cotton was grown on the banks of the Paraná, Entre Rios.

April 11th—Our office crowded with cotton amateurs; one gentleman whose father has a large cotton mill near Manchester states that the Diamante cotton is of very superior quality. The agent of the Algerian Association has, we learn, applied to the Secretary of the Bolsa, for samples of Argentine cotton. Mess. Saunders and Keyser, of 117 Paseo Julio, who have repaired all the steamers on the river, are now at work putting up our second cotton gin. The first we sold to a cotton planter in Corrientes, who has already shipped it to his plantations. We have received applications for 3 more gins, as the one at present in our office we shall keep for public use.

April 12th—Letter from Paraná plantation.

Villa Urquiza, March 17th 1863.

I may be open to the suspicion of ingratitude, for delaying to acknowledge the receipt of the *Standard* cotton-seed, but I can now assure you it was all well disposed of, and if there were much more, we should also have employed it. I should wish to know what class the seed is. The few that I planted with Sor Agulla, came up in 4 days although the treatises I have read state that 10 or 12 days is required. It is well to pluck up all the plants in a cotton hill, except one, although some writers advise leaving two; and to keep the plants 4 or 5 feet distant. I tried some seed from Corrientes, which was said to be very good In the first year it yielded an excellent crop, the plants being 3 feet asunder, and I sent some of the cotton to various friends as a specimen of Entre Rian growth.

I will send you a flower of what we planted with Sor Agulla, as soon as it is ripe, and I hope you will prize this fruit of your intellectual and manual labors more than if it were an Arabian camelia.

IGNACIO CIGORRAGA.

April 13th—Sor Bazan of Rioja is most anxious to grow cotton; he writes to beg we will give him seed and machinery, as he has a large tract of fertile land wholly idle. He is confident of success in the experiment, and only awaits our next importation to commence

April 17th—Notice in the *Standard*

All parties having cotton may dispose of the same at this office at 3 to 5$ (fd.

to 10d) per lb. unginned. They may if they prefer, employ our machine (gratis) to gin it, and export direct to the Association at Manchester on their own account. In such case also we are willing to make advances.

We are ready to purchase or sell seed at 28 mjc, (4d.) per lb; and receive orders for seed, machinery, or pamphlets from persons of any political caste or color.

April 8th—The double acting Macartney gin has been cleaned, and put up in this office, by Mr. Thomas Moore, but we cannot gin the 400 lbs raw cotton the steam apparatus not being yet attached.

April 19th—We publish the following account which we hope will serve as an incentive to all the cotton growers throughout the Republic.

Sres. D. Miguel & E. T. Mulhall
á Manuel Agulla— comprô
8 bolsas algodon con 408 lb. bto.
Neto 400 lb.—3 5 $..... $2000
Buenos Ayres April—16—1863.
Recibí el importe—

MANUEL AGULLA.

Aril 20th—We publish instructions for planting.

April 21st—Letter and seed from the Association:

Manchester, 6th March.

Dear Sirs,

I had this pleasure last on the 23rd ult. and am since in receipt of your favor of 27th, January.

Your letter of 14th Jan. was read with much interest by the committee and was inserted in the local papers.

I now have the pleasure of waiting upon you with the Invoice (annexed) of cotton seed shipped to you by the present conveyance in accordance with your letter of 27th Dec. last I have not charged the freight in the invoice as I have not yet received bill of lading.

I am Dear Sirs your obedient servant

G. R. HAYWOOD,
Secretary.

Invoice of cotton seed shipped from Southampton per steamer of the 9th March to Messrs M. G. & E. T. Mulhall of Buenos Ayres on their account and risk.
5 cwt. Sea Island Cotton Seed at 13s 6d per cwt. - £3 7s 6d.

5 do New Orleans do do at 11s 6d per cwt.—£2 17s 6d.

5 do Egyptian do do at 12s 6d per cwt—£3 3s 6d.—£9 7s 6d, Insurance £10 at 40s per cent—£9 11s 6d.

G. R. Haywood.
Secretary.

April 23rd—The demand for cotton seed is perfectly incredible; one native house has ordered for the Interior 250 lbs. A German house takes 30 lbs. for the Banda Oriental, an Englishman has asked for 2 arrobes for his estancia in Parana. In Rosario they expect us to send up 1000 lbs. of seed.

A small parcel of about 60 arrobes of Catamarca cotton in the seed was offered to us yesterday, which it is more than probable we shall purchase (subsequently not sold).

A gentleman from Parana applied to us yesterday, for six quintals of cotton seed to send to the Diamante: he states that the cotton we bought from that locality is by no means the best, and promises to send us some shortly, which is far superior (he did not do so).

At this office may be seen a specimen of middling Cotton which grows wild in the district of La Paz, Entre Rios. The facility for rearing this staple, and cheapness of land, will promote its cultivation there-about; already one of our subscribers is about to plant largely.

We have seen a beautiful specimen of cotton, grown at the 5 Esquinas, in the suburbs, from Catamarca seed: it is quite equal to the staple of that province, which is reckoned the best in the Argentine Republic.

A French gentleman, who has had much experience in cotton planting in Algiers, is about to start for Corrientes, to take charge of some large cotton-fields in the neighborhood of Goya (we know nothing of him since).

April 24th—Received from Association two of Platt and Richardson's Patent Double-Action Macarthy Cotton Gin, arranged for Hand, Bullock, Steam, or Water Power, and can be used for all description of Cotton. They are the only Machines suitable for the extraction of soft or woolly seeds, and they will separate 30 lbs. of cleaned cotton per hour, without crushing the seeds or injuring the fibre—Price £20.

The machines cost £20 in Manchester, but freight and expense of setting them up here bring them up to about 5000 dollars; they will turn out 30 arrobes of clean cotton per day, equivalent to 100 arrobes of fine mestiza wool.

Our pamphlets in Spanish are all out, but we have written for more, and still

have a supply of those in English. We may inform the Argentine republic in general that the average value of its cotton is 2 silver dollars per arrobe unginned, that the 'Standard' gin is at their disposal, gratis, and that we expect a ton of seed monthly.

May 1st—Extract from President Mitre's speech at the opening of Congress.

The crisis occasioned in foreign marts by want of Cotton, incidental to the war of the U. States, has induced experiments for the cultivation of this plant in the Republic; there are well-grounded reasons to hope, that, in time, Cotton will become a staple of national wealth.

May 2nd—Mr. James Hastings took yesterday 30 lbs. seed for planting in the North of this province.

Mr. Murray of the Northern Railway has promised, if possible, to lend a driving-wheel for our gin.

May 3rd—Sor Moreno, Senator from Catamarca, came to thank us for our efforts to foment the cotton industry in the provinces. He has had much experience in cotton growing in his province, and assures us that this season the quantity of cotton which will be sown in Catamarca will far exceed that of any previous year.

We regret that some gentlemen who frequent the Bolsa have been unable to see our cotton bouquet, from its not being sufficiently prominent. It is one of the most interesting objects ever exhibited in B. Ayres, and may now be seen at this office.

May 4th—Messrs. Saunders and Keyser are greatly blamed for not having the cotton gin working, but they are looking out for a wheel.

May 6th—Mr. Wheelwright has kindly promised to write to Peru for a certain description of cotton seed, which he thinks would be better adapted for this country than either African or United States seed.

May 8th—We have received a beautiful sample of cotton from Mr. Gowland, grown in the Banda Oriental; it is at present on exhibition at our office, which is now becoming a regular museum. We have samples of cotton from almost every province of the republic.

May 10th—We have despatched another bag of cotton seed for Corrientes. A gentleman residing at Curuzu-cuatia is about to plant some five squares of cotton. He states that, in many parts of the country, cotton grows wild up there, and as he has a great deal of land lying idle, he is determined to turn it to some account.

We sent up to Rosario, per Pavon, yesterday, a bag of cotton seed to our esteemed cotton ally and friend Dr. Hutchinson, her Majesty's Consul.

We hope Santa Fé will produce plenty of cotton in the coming year. all the seed sown has come up splendidly. Captain Bruce has promised us that the first bale of cotton grown in Santa Fe and shipped to the 'Standard' office he will take down free of charge. We call upon the Santa Fecinos 'en masse' to sow cotton.

May 18th—Yesterday we gave samples of Buenos Ayres cotton to a Scotch gentleman, who purposes sending it by the next steamer to a leading manufacturer in England.

Sr. Ortiz, deputy from San Luis, visited our office on Friday: he intends to order seed for 450 squares of land which he owns in that province.

Sr. Don E. Blanco, deputy from Mendoza, has ordered 3 arrobes of seed which he purposes sowing in September.

Sr. Chapeaurouge, of San Antonio de Areco, has ordered a small quantity of each class of seed that we have, to sow at his estancia.

Fifteen bales of Paraguayan cotton arrived here on Sunday, and we expect more by next steamer.

Even the ladies have taken to cotton. Yesterday a bewitching Porteña walked into our office, and asked for an arroba of cotton seed.

May 20th—The 'Standard' office was crowded yesterday with cotton votaries.

Sr. Frias, from Cordoba, sends a sack to that province, to plant on his property.

A German house of high standing has also taken a large quantity of seed for the Banda Oriental.

Sr. Prangue has taken two arrobas for his estancia in the Banda Oriental.

Samples are coming into us from all quarters.

May 25th—Consul Hutchinson, of Rosario, has disposed of every grain of the cotton seed we sent him.

Messrs. Stolterfoht, of Liverpool, sent him 15 quintals of Egyptian seed, given by the Association for gratuitous distribution.

Mr. Deputy Blanco, from San Luis, has applied to us for a cotton gin. We beg to advise all English merchants who may have cotton gins that, by applying to us, they can find purchasers.

May 29th—A resident of San Fernando states that about thirty years ago large fields of cotton were grown in that locality, and that cotton grew beautifully about there. At that period of civil wars, &c., this branch of agriculture

was neglected: this year, however, several squares will be planted along the river.

June 5th—We despatched on Thursday a sack of cotton seed, weighing 159 lbs., destined for Entre Rios. Sor. Puente is getting up a fever in that province, and finds the inhabitants prompt to engage in so promising an industry.

June 6th—Mr. Bookey, of Sta. Catalina, has three plants, each over six feet high, and bearing an aggregate of 200 pods. Mr. White's plantation at Belgrano is a little late, but we hope sufficiently strong to resist the frosts.

Another sample from Mr. Price's quinta, of Egyptian seed, looks very well, although we expect more from the upper provinces than from Buenos Ayres in the way of planting.

A Frenchman from Las Conchas took 1 lb. yesterday to experiment in that locality.

June 10th—An American, formerly engaged in the great plantation in Corrientes, got up by Americans, informs us that splendid results may be derived from that province. The establishment progressed favourably for some ten or fifteen months, over 200 women and children being employed; the soil was, however, too sandy, being rather close to the river. Much difficulty was found in picking, the trees being too close; and, to crown all, the Directory fell into neglect and finally broke up. It is necessary to leave rows three yards wide, on all sides, between the trees, as the distance for tree-cotton should be double that fixed for the plant, or shrub cotton general in the U. States.

June 15th—Letter from the Association.

We have received, per Mersey, a ton of cotton seed, 12 cwt. superior West Indian, and 8 cwt. Egyptian. Another supply, of equal quantity, has been also shipped for us by the Southampton mail of June 9th. The season for planting begins in September, and there will be about 12 tons of seed in this market, for those who intend to foster this promising industry by large operations.

In future, the Association will send us seed from New York.

June 20th—A cotton planter from Louisiana has arrived, with the intention of trying to grow the staple in this country.

June 28th—Sixteen bales of Paraguay cotton shipped to England per British Mail Steamer.

July 8th—We present the Argentine Government with 200 lb. cotton-seed

of various kinds. Thomas St.George Armstrong, Esq., also gives 300lb ; both donations are for gratuitous distribution in the provinces.

July 11th—Mr. Wilson's plants in his quinta in the suburbs reported as thriving: this was only an experiment.

July 14th—The 'Semanario' (official organ) of Asuncion contains detailed instructions for cotton-planting in Paraguay.

July 17th—We ship, through Messrs. Drabble, eight sacks (400 lb.) seed cotton to Manchester Association. A bag of 25lb Sea Island seed despatched from 'Standard' office to Paraguay. Rumours of an intended company in Santa Fe to lay down 100 squares (350 acres) under cotton (never realized).

July 19th - Consul Hutchinson receives at Rosario 12 barrels seed from Manchester for gratuitous distribution. We receive letters from Mr. Billinghurst, of Corrientes, that he intends planting largely. Similar news from La Paz (Entre Rios). A French gardener of Buenos Ayres takes 40lb seed for his quinta.

July 23—Don Juan Ameghino, of the Department of Soriano, Oriental Republic, favours us with some valuable results obtained by him in experimental cotton-planting We have three samples. No. 1 is some cotton fibre, without seed, gathered of plants which were frost-bitten ere the fruit had arrived at maturity; the staple is short and weak, and, as we opine, valueless. No. 2 consists of two large capsules, almost full blown, the fruit being similar to the former. No 3 is one pod about to bloom, which was prematurely nipped, and unlike No. 2, never opened. The conclusion is very plain, viz., that they were planted too late (December), and no other month is suitable but that we indicated, September. The following are M. Ameghino's remarks:—

"This cotton (New Orleans seed) was sown in the end of December, and came over ground in eight or ten days. It grew up very well, only an occasional plant being dried up by the sun or drought. In due time they were covered with blossoms, a new one appearing daily, until May, when a frost came and blighted both leaves and flowers before the capsules had opened. The frost, however, forced some to open before they were ripe.

"The second kind, having a yellow flower, was of Catamarca seed, and came up very leafy. It also blossomed, but later than the other. At first the frosts had no effect, but it ultimately succumbed, without having opened a single pod. After this I need hardly say that they must b anted long before December."

We have seen cotton planted in this province in November, which had exactly a similar fate, being frost-bitten when just ripening. Some of the trees have been transplanted, but we put little faith in the experiment.

July 23rd—Leader in the 'Standard,' advocating cotton-growing in Cordoba.

July 28th—Consul Hutchinson gives Mr. Perkins ('Ferro-carril') a barrel of seed for gratuitous distribution in Catamarca.

August 1st—The Argentine Government finding 500lb. too little, buy from us 1000lb. more seed. We despatch 75 lb. for San Nicolas (B. A.), and M. Demarchi purchases a like quantity.

August 2nd—The Gefes Politicos of cotton-growing departments are encharged by Government to distribute the small parcels (40lb.) sent to the several provinces.

August 5th.—We despatch 25lb. for Gualeguay (Entre Rios) and 5lb. Sea Island for Diamante (E. R.).

August 7th.—We despatch 50lb. Egyptian and Sea Island for Gualeguay, Mr. Black's estancia.

August 11th—We despatch 150lb. to Mr. Hall, Bella Vista, Corrientes.

August 12th—Eighteen bales Paraguay cotton sent to Antwerp.

August 14th—We give 25lb seed gratis to Sor. Puente, for the poor of Parana. The 'Semanario' continues instructions on planting.

August 15th—We receive a letter from Manchester Association reprimanding us for paying such an extravagant price on the Diamante seed-cotton.

August 18th—Pamphlets in Spanish arrive from Manchester. Messrs. Shaw and Barber receive gins, price of same, 9 doubloons.

August 19th—Messrs. Kerr and Grierson receive from Manchester 15 tons seed.

August 20th—Samples of native calico exhibited on 'Change by Governor Taboada of Santiago del Estero. Consul Hutchinson sends seed to that province.

August 21st—Consul Hutchinson's report of Salado Valley published in the 'Standard.'

August 25th—We had a visit from the honorable deputies for San Luis and Corrientes, Sres. Ortiz and Ygarzabal. These gentlemen take a lively interest in cotton propagation, possessing in their respective provinces large tracts of arable land, which may with trifling labour and outlay be converted into plantations of *gossypium arboreum*. Sor. Ortiz has 1200 squares (4,000 acres) of well

irrigated camp, but the enormous charge for freight almost prevents the hope of realising a profitable enterprise in that remote region, unless the proposed Traction engines, or Cordoba Railway, bring the Interior to cheap and ready communication with our river ports.

Sor. Ygarzabal's estancia comprises 11 leagues of fertile land on the banks of the Parana, about forty leagues above the city of Corrientes. He offers terms which would prove highly advantageous to capitalists or immigrants anxious to make a trial in this valuable staple production. He proposes to plant 18 million cotton-hills in a league of his land, and sell the crop to any buyer who will moreover assume the cost and risk of pulling the same. Or he will rent the land to a joint stock company on condition of their planting it, and allowing him a share in remuneration. Or he will go halves with any one in all the expense and profits of planting half a league or a league. Or he will take small farmers in partnership of equal profits, giving them house, beef and vegetables for the first year.

He has brought us a beautiful specimen of cotton produced by a tree only three months old, which had reached a height of eight feet. It was planted in December and plucked in March, although he agrees with us that September is the best month for sowing. He uses common wooden roller-gins, but purposes taking a Macartney steam-gin for his projected plantation. The Corrientes seed somewhat resembles Sea-Island, but is a little smaller: the cotton is about equal in value to New Orleans, being second only to Catamarca in this country.

Sor. Ximenes has just informed us that his plantation counts, at Goya, about 70,000 plants, but he lost a large number from sowing too late in the season. Governor Cullen of Santa Fe has applied to Consul Hutchinson for another barrel of seed.

August 27th—Arrival of 270 sacks seed, 6 gins, and 1 press from United States for President Lopez of Paraguay; the seed is Sea Island and Upland.

August 28th—We give three small parcels of seed for experiments in the suburbs, Barracas and San Isidro.

August 29th—We despatch to Deputy Blanco of Mendoza 20lb. N. Orleans, 6lb. Georgian, 2lb. Egyptian, 2lb West Indian, and 2lb. Sea Island; also 30lb. to Sor. Chaperouge of Areco (B. A.) and 25lb to Sor. Spalding for Corrientes.

Sept. 1st—Governor Lagraña of Corrientes, who took 50 bags from Messrs. Kerr and Grierson, buys of us 3 sacks.

Sept. 2nd—Projected cotton law in Corrientes:

Art. 1. Every inhabitant of this province who shall *plant cotton* upon Government land shall become owner *in fee* and in perpetuity of such land, including also the land necessary for house, corrals, &c., of the cotton planter.

Art. 2. In order to be entitled to the privileges contained in the preceding article it shall be necessary for the cotton planter to preserve said cotton plantation in good order for three years.

Art. 3. Every private estancia, chacra or establishment dedicated exclusively to cotton planting, shall be free from all impost, tax or duty, now established or hereafter to be created for the term of three years from the date of this law.

Art. 4. The Executive, after the passing of this law, shall designate the localities referred to in said law.

Art. 5. Let it be published, &c.

JOSE MARIA AGUILAR.

Sala of Sessions, Aug 13, 1863.

This bill met with great opposition and was afterwards thrown out, but an amendment passed, granting the use of lands rent free to all persons who will plant cotton, so long as they continue its cultivation.

Sept. 12th—Cotton-growers in Corrientes exempted from the land-tax. Mr. Drysdale presents the *Tribuna* editors with three sacks for distribution.

Sept. 18th—Letter from the Association reporting D. Bernabé Ocampo's sample of Catamarca cotton, worth 3 shillings per lb.

Sept. 23rd—Gave some pamphlets to Sr. Mendez, of Corrientes: land and seed given gratis in that province, for planting.

Oct. 8th—The Friedrich Martin, from New York, in Montevideo, brings us 20 bags New Orleans, sent by agent of the Association. We bring it up by steamer: freight very expensive.

Oct. 9th—Sold Sr. Mendez 10 sacks of above, for Corrientes.

Oct. 11th—Cotton companies in formation in Entre Rios and Corrientes. The master of the barque Rosario brings us a present of 20lbs Sea Island seed from his owners in Liverpool.

Oct. 14th—Joint-stock Companies for planting formed at Villa Urquiza and Parana: to each we offer a donation of 100lbs

Oct. 15th—Fourteen bales Paraguay cotton sold in France at 24d. per lb.

Oct. 16th—Cotton Company of Empedrado, Corrientes.

Art. 1—A joint-stock company is hereby formed, for the purpose of cultivating cotton for the period of six years.

2. The capital of the company is 1000 fuertes, divided into 200 shares of the value of 5 silver dollars each.

3. The company shall purchase land suitable to the growth of cotton.

4. All profits, &c., arising from the business shall be divided amongst the stockholders.

5. At the expiration of six years it shall be determined, by the majority of the stockholders at a general meeting, the distribution of the assets.

6. Two-thirds of the stockholders shall be considered as a quorum at all meetings.

7. The business of the company shall be managed by a board of directors of five, with a president to be elected annually.

We have to thank the justice of the peace of the Empedrado, for his praiseworthy exertions in forming this company. The shares, we understand, are all taken, the land has been prepared, and a large quantity of seed already sown.

Oct. 23rd—Plantations at Villa Urquiza, Entre Rios: Colonel Antelo 50,000 hills: D. Manuel Agulla 35,000.

Oct 25th—Gave Sr. Puente one sack for distribution gratis at Parana. Sr. Calderon has planted there 175lb. seed, and we send him 50lb. more, through Consul Hutchinson.

Oct. 27th—Rumor of projected cotton company at Goya (never realised.) The *Semanario* continues its instructions.

Oct. 28th—Sr. Ximenez of Goya has 50 acres under cotton, in all.

Oct. 29th—Paraguay cotton exhibited at *Standard* office. Letter on cotton in Entre Rios.

Messrs. M. G. and E. T. Mulhall.

DEAR SIRS—I beg to acknowledge having received from you one bag marked "C.S.A., No. 102," containing cotton seed, for the purpose of sending the same up to the city of Parana, to be distributed there, *gratis*, among the persons who possess land, and feel inclined to make a trial in cultivating this useful plant.

As a native of this country, I feel very grateful to you for having devoted so much of your time to awaken and foster the idea that the growth of cotton will amply compensate the time and labours which persons may devote to its cultivation; and if ever cotton becomes an article of export from this country, people will be bound to acknowledge that you have been a constant supporter

of the idea—nay, I may even add, the champion and propagator of this new branch of native industry. Fortunately your labours have not been altogether in vain, since it is a fact that several plantations have been made in the provinces of Corrientes and Entre Rios. In the latter we know that more than 160,000 plants show themselves already above the ground. This lot belongs to a company of native gentlemen, and the plantation has been made at Villa Urquiza, a place situated some 15 miles above the Parana, upon the left bank of the magnificent river of that name, from whence the produce could be shipped directly to England if necessary.

Yours very truly,

SALUSTIANO PUENTE.

Nov. 13th—**Villa Urquiza** plantations, over 200,000 hills.

Villa Urquiza, Nov. 5, 1863.

Don Salustiano Puente,

My dear Friend,

Knowing the interest you take in our proceedings, I hasten to give you some information of our cotton-planting in this district, for our desires have at last been realised, so far as to see a large plantation springing up, with every promise.

The Gelaber Cotton Society, as well as Don Manuel Agulla, have devoted great labour and pains to their efforts, this year, preparing the ground in proper time, and intersecting it with furrows at stated distances, in right line. The seeds were chosen of different classes and climates, as Georgia, Egypt, Sea Island, and from the upper provinces, the greater part being of the supply which you forwarded to the Delegate, D. José Francisco Anteló. Thanks to this good friend, who expended some dollars on a supply of seed, I was enabled, through his generosity, to distribute it gratis to all applicants. For this purpose, besides informing all my acquaintances in the Colony of Villa Urquiza, I posted a notice on my door to the effect. But I regret to say that very few of the colonists have availed themselves of the gift, and only a small lot has been laid down by them. We are also indebted to her Britannic Majesty's agent for a donation of cotton-seed, of which we gave a portion to a gentleman from Victoria, who is making good use of the same.

Although the Gelaber Company planted all the land prepared, they have written to Buenos Ayres for 10 arrobes more of seed, to provide for an emer-

gency, as they feared at first their whole plantation was almost destroyed by a plague of worms which ate the roots of the plants as soon as they appeared over ground; but happily this danger has disappeared, and the damage done is merely trifling. You may guess that we are quite enthusiastic about cotton-planting here.

I calculate that not less than 16 arrobes (400 lb.) of seed have been laid down in this neighbourhood, as follows:—

Presented by Consul Hutchinson ...	...	7ar. 0lb.
Forwarded by you to Sor. Antelo ...	...	8 12
Sor. Agulla's Sea Island, Egyptian, and Georgian		2 18
The Gelaber Co., of various classes ...	...	3 0
Total ...	...	... 19ar. 6lb.

Of this quantity there are about 35lb. on hand, and a similar lot was given to neighbours, for experimenting, so that our plantations amount at least to 16a.

The plantations cover a superficies of 40 cuadras (120 acres) of 100 yards each, or 400,000 yards in all, as follows:—

Gelaber Company, of various classes ...	... 24 cuadras
Sor. Agulla, Egyptian 3, Sea Island 2, Georgian 5½	10½ ,,
The colonists, in small quantities ...	... 5½ ,,

This calculation is rather under the mark than otherwise. The Gelaber Company have planted, at a yard apart, leaving lanes between the files of a yard and a half wide. Sor. Agulla has preferred to plant at a yard and a half, with lanes between, of two yards. On the whole, we have made a great effort, this time, and this little place promises to become famous for cotton before long.

The plants began to come over ground three days after the date of sowing, 13th October, but some of them are slow and only appearing now. They all look well and healthy, although not progressing so fast as one might have expected. This was probably owing to the several cold days we had last month and even in the beginning of this; for the frosts have done great injury to the potatoes and pumpkins, and, strange to say, only slightly injured the cotton plants.

I have some plants from Corrientes seed, now budding, which will soon be

in flower, and I will then send you some specimens to have them submitted for valuation. Do not fear I shall disappoint you like last year, when I unfortunately hired a stupid gardener to clean the ground, and he plucked up all the cotton plants, taking them for weeds. This will not happen again. I will also send you some pods of the new plantation when nearly ripe. What I fear is, that we shall not be able to find hands enough to pick the crop, but then the Government might provide for this by enforcing the Vagabond Law.

Your sincere friend,

IGNACIO CIGORRAGA.

Nov. 20—Six cotton gins forwarded by J. Albinson to Consul Hutchinson, Rosario; one gin fitted up at the Consulate.

Nov. 22—M. G. Mulhall starts for Corrientes.

Nov. 24—Three bales Argentine cotton cleared from Rosario for B. Ayres.

Nov. 25—Don Felix Eguzquiza presents 30 bags cotton seed to the National Government. We present Don Estevan Rams, of Santiago del Estero, with two sacks cotton seed.

Nov. 27—Government sends to Corrientes the seed presented by Don F. Eguzquiza.

Dec. 23—Sr. Gimenez reports that the cotton plants in Corrientes are doing well, and that he is busy picking in some of his plantations.

1861. January 16th—Mr. M. G. Mulhall returns from Paraguay and Corrientes.

January 18th—Samples of wild cotton, growing most abundantly in Corrientes and Missiones, were yesterday given to two English gentlemen who came out in the packet, who promise to forward it to some cotton merchants in Liverpool. The Paraguay cotton sold in Belgium at 5 silver reals (3½d.) per lb. Letter from the Association, informing us that our seed cotton was worth only two-thirds what we had paid for it.

February 1st—We offer three reals (10d.) for ginned cotton delivered here and half a real for seed cotton in Corrientes or Entre Rios.

February 15th—Mr. E. B. Neill, London Consul General for Uruguay, has obtained from the Manchester Cotton Supply Association a further supply of the finest seed, consisting of one barrel each of the New Orleans and Egyptian descriptions. This he forwarded to Montevideo by the 'Oneida,' in charge of a namesake of his, a young engineer of great ability, whom the Consul General

has commissioned to exhibit and practically explain the merits of a new Cotton Gin, the invention of Mr. Emery, who has long resided in South Carolina, and which is now being manufactured in great numbers by Messrs. Burgess and Key, the well-known agricultural implement makers of London, who have added some improvements to the Emery Gin.

February 20th—We exhibit a sample of the Curumba cotton on the Bolsa, which experienced Manchester men consider to be of first rate quality.

The small lot of cotton which we purchased on Tuesday was grown at Curumba, in the Brazilian province of Matto Grosso. It is ginned and in beautiful condition weighing 415 lbs: we will forward it baled per La Plata to Messrs. Stolterfoht, Liverpool. The seller only expected $5, but we give him $9, 3 rls. silver per arrobe: he promises us much more. The brig made the voyage from Curumba to this port (2,500 miles) in 34 days. The freight was very high, 4 reals per arrobe. The price we have paid is equivalent to 10 dols. m|c. or 18d. per lb., more than double the value of the finest wool. It was baled in the 'barraca' of Messrs. Blaye and Ballesteros. It is likely we shall soon receive large consignments of Corrientes cotton at the same price,

March 1st.—For Paraguay—The Danish barque Candace, from New York, has brought nine machines, probably cotton gins, for President Lopez. They manage things better at Asuncion than here.

March 4th—Shipped on board the Liverpool steamer 'La Plata' 1 bale with 415 lb clean Curumba cotton.

March 6th—We have received a sample of this year's cotton from Corrientes. It has a longer and stronger staple than that of Curumba, but is not so white in color. The picking season now commences, and we expect most of the crop will pass through our hands.

March 8th—Sr. Ximenes, of Goya, Corrientes, has called to inform us that cotton-picking has begun on his estancia (Batel). The yield of 50,000 plants ought to be at least 400 arrobes—25 bales. We expect a small lot soon from La Paz, and learn also that the growers of Diamante purpose sending us their crop.

March 13th—Mr. Rams informs us that our cotton seed has been all planted in Santiago del Estero, and come up beautifully, and that considerable attention is now being paid to cotton growing in every part of the interior.

March 20th—Messrs. Duguid and Co., of this city, offer 1 real (6d.) per lb. for a lot of 25,000 lb seed cotton at Bella, Vista Corrientes.

A TOUR THROUGH THE
COTTON-FIELDS
OF
PARAGUAY AND CORRIENTES.

DEPARTURE FROM BUENOS AYRES.

On bidding adieu, last Sunday, to those friends who came to see me off, I could not help remembering that this was my first separation from B. Ayres, after a happy acquaintance of five years devoted to almost incessant and anxious labor. While animated with brilliant hopes of finding the *Standard* 'idea' of cotton partially realised, I felt that my vacation would not be lost time, and if the journey was fatiguing to the body it gave me at least a relaxation of mind highly grateful. Among those on board the Pavon were Baron Maua and the Baroness, the Minister of Worship, Deputies Cabral of Corrientes, Zavalia of Cordoba, and Gomez of San Juan; the king of highways, M. Sauze; Mr Mackinlay, jun.; four Swiss immigrants, and about fifty other passengers. D Esteban Rams, who had accompanied Baron Mauà on board, spoke to me, with fervent interest, of the object of my mission, adding that he was about to start again for the Salado, and requesting two sacks of seed for distribution among the natives, which my brother hereupon promised him gratis; Baron Maua also wished me every success.

The day being remarkably fine, we enjoyed the panorama of the city receding fast from sight, which few of my readers have not already admired. Passing the gun-boat Dotorell and the Mersey packet, a parting salute from the surgeon of the former and some officers of the latter seemed like a last good-bye; and as we plunged out upon the ample bosom of La Plata, the wooded coasts of Palermo and pretty cottages of the 'barranca' formed a pleasing fringe to the horizon. But I must not imitate Mr. Sastre by dilating on the Tempe Argentino, as he calls the Archipelago of the Parana. Suffice it to say that we came by the Boca de las Palmas, leaving Dr. Costa at his estancia, 'La Campana' where the National flag was hoisted in compliment to his Excellency. There were no passengers for Zarate or Baradero, but we stopped at San Pedro to land the Swiss colonists, two very neat cleanly-looking couples, whose luggage was marked 'Bale—Havre—Plata' as if they had taken a through ticket to Buenos Ayres: they had several large chests and one enormous box, which I feared would capsize the frail craft, but they landed safely. At Rincon de las Hermanas we landed some first class

Rambouillet rams for Sor. Llavallol's estancia. At San Nicolas, besides several passengers, we sent ashore another enormous box, which proved to be the iron safe of the new branch bank to be opened there. I regret to add, by way of explanation, that it is only a paper bank, not being of the Maua or River Plate Companies, but a sprout of the Upas tree of 34 Calle San Martin, nick-named Casa de Moneda, by that figure of speech "Lucus a non lucendo."

Moonlight in the Parana is certainly beautiful, quite equal to the Colosseum or Melrose abbey (although I haven't seen the latter) for we are told these venerable ruins never appear to such advantage, as when the moss-covered arch and crumbling pile are lighted by Dian's silvery bow. But the pleasure is enhanced when you have some charming damsels near, who lend the magic of song to the romance of the scene. A young lady from Cordoba with the aid of a Harmonium sang some sweet airs of her native hills, and Dr. Zavalia, by way of compliment to me, played the Last rose of Summer, and other Irish, and English ballads, with a taste which must have made the Glee Club jealous, had they heard the echoes of La Plata wafting our national hymns through these jungles, where tigers make their lairs unmolested. I know not how it is, but even the natives suspect me to have musical "proclivities" and I was forced to sing Il Balen, Kathleen Mavourneen, and Partant pour la Syrie, But even glancing moon-beams, bright eyes, and soft Castilian must submit to the drowsy god, and I turned in after as pleasant a night as I have (almost) ever spent.

The accommodations of the Pavon are excellent, the table could not be better, and the river being calm, it is difficult to fancy a pleasanter trip for a honey moon, or runaway debtor, than under Captain Price's attentive care. I am very glad to have found Deputy Cabral among the passengers, as he has given me some insight into the Promised Land and is rejoiced at the circumstances of my tour of inspection. Dr Zavalia is, however, a still more agreeable companion; he speaks English well, and is a young man (only 25 years) of good education, as are most of the Cordobese lawyers.

In conversation with Baron Maua, his excellency gave me some interesting details of the rapid progress of Brazil within a few years, dwelling with honest pride on the fact that the new loan was taken up at London within 4 hours, and even a surplus offered, notwithstanding the present interruption of diplomatic relations. The Baron speaks English perfectly, and impresses you at once with the idea that he is a rare combination of the gentleman, millionaire and statesman.

Mr. Mackinlay, who has just returned from Paraguay is bound for Salta, undertaking this awful journey alone; he took his carriage with him, in the steamer, and professes no fear of the Indians.

We had a clergyman on board who unfortunately was sick all the way, also D. Adolfo Mancilla, and Captain Bruce and his amiable family. But Messrs Cabral and Spalding are the only companions I shall have to Corrientes, unless some others embark at this port. As I am now going to see Consul Hutchinson and the Cordoba railway, I must postpone an account of what M. Cabral tells me about Corrientos until the Esmeralda is about to sail, "aguas arriba."

Senator Gomez is an old man, only remarkable for having been Governor of San Juan, when the unfortunate General Benavides was murdered in prison.

ARRIVAL AT ROSARIO.

Nov, 24, 1863.

I have been much and agreeably disappointed with Rosario: instead of a straggling over-grown village, I have found a very well built town, covering over 150 cuadras, and not at all so dull as I was led to believe. The 'barranca,' being nearly 100 feet high, and allowing no view from the river, I had no idea of the place, until reaching the Calle Puerto. The plaza, cfiurc , custom house, theatre, and other public buildings are very fair, but the market place is far superior to anything in Buenos Ayres. Some time since the rats were so numerous, that all the pavement had to be pulled up and the vermin killed by scores.

Rosario hardly needs description, being so well known to Buenos Ayrean folk; but, for the benefit of my foreign readers I extract the following from the Handbook of the R. Plate:

"The city of Rosario, in the Province of Sta. Fe, was founded in the year 1725, by Don Francisco Godoy. In 1751 a parish was formed of the town and its confines, the first director being Presbyter Ambrosio Alzogaray.

"It is capital of the Department of the same name, and situated on the Western Bank of the River Parana, in Lat: 32° 56' 30" South, and Long: 60° 30' 50' West, Paris meridian. Its elevation is 65 feet above the level of the River Plate; it is about 37 leagues South of Santa Fe and 75 leagues North-west of Buenos Ayres.

"Its houses number 1850, of which 25 are storied, 650 with flat roofs and the rest are of straw: they are all of modern construction, the streets are exceedingly clean and have excellent side walks. In public buildings it possesses one parish church, three small chapels, one municipal house, one theatre, one public garden, a custom house and its warehouses, a good market and Hospital, and, at some distance from the town, two cemeteries, one for Roman Catholics and the other for dissenters, two corn mills, one moved by steam and the other by water, and three saladeros.

"The census of 1858 gave it a population of 13,826 souls. As late as 1852, it was a miserable hamlet almost wholly composed of mud huts, not containing more than from 1,500 to 2,000 inhabitants. It is divided into six sections, at the head of each of which is a justice of peace and an Alcalde.

"Although the custom-house was not erected until 1854, its rents progressively increased from £68,132 in that year to £172,135, in 1860. Its importance as a river port for the interior provinces may be estimated from the fact that during six months of 1856, there were transported from it to the interior provinces 4,428 tons of European merchandize, and there passed through it from these provinces 4,415 tons of native produce.

"Rosario was created a municipality by decree of the provincial government of Sta. Fe, 5th January, 1860, the ceremony of installation having been accomplished on Feb. 12th in the same year.

"The tribunal of commerce was established in 1855, was reformed in the early part of 1859, so as to be composed solely of natives, and was again remodelled on the 12th July 1862."

In looking for the *Ferro-Carril* office I chanced to enter a store and inquire the way, when an unknown gentleman advanced to shake hands with me, and introduced me to those present, telling them that I was a public benefactor, a friend of Cotton. Mr. Perkins was not at home, so I proceeded to the British Consulate and found Mr. Hutchinson overjoyed to see me. He had just received a letter from Sor Calderon of Paraná begging for another

sack of cotton seed, which I will leave for him *en passant*, care of Mr. Myers. That plantation had suffered heavily from a worm which attacked the young plants, but the planters have not lost heart. Consul Hutchinson explained to me an error into which I had fallen by supposing that his reply to Lord Russell giving *Nil* as the cotton returns for his consular district, included the provinces of Entre-Rios and Corrientes, when in reality it embraces only Sta. Fe. I never meant to doubt that he was among the foremost Gossypianites of the R. Plate, but I thought his and Consul Parish's reports incorrect and discouraging, when they were true, being limited to the provinces on either side of Arroyo Medio.

Mr. Hutchinson's six gins just imported are very fine instruments, about half the size of those received by the *Standard* office. The price, 5 doubloons each, is so reasonable that I expect to dispose of them for him, before my return. He has also two very small hand-gins, one saw, the other roller, much cheaper. He informs me there is no exaggeration in the story of 200.000 plants laid down at Villa Urquiza, as the colonists eagerly accepted his suggestion to make a good trial. I am also told that the cotton-fields of Diamante are doing well and of late greatly increasing. The colonies however, of Sta Fè have only made nominal experiments.

Deputy Zavalia expresses his desire to try cotton planting in the N. W. part of Cordoba. He says there are several fine valleys near the frontier of Rioja excellently adapted for this industry : he assures me that all the local authorities have zealously carried out the wishes of the Nat. Government, by causing experiments to be made in various parts.

Deputy Cabral gives me a most flattering description of the grand plantations made this year in the province of Corrientes. One gentleman has laid down 14 cuadras (50 acres) and over eighty sacks of seed have been distributed or planted under the immediate direction of that worthy man Governor Lagraña. At Bella Vista, I understand a good deal has been planted, but I intend proceeding direct to the capital with my letters to the Governor, as there are no diligences, and I cannot travel in the interior without some confidential guide, whom H. E. may furnish me with. I regret being unable to call at Sor Ximenes' estancia on the rival Batel, 12 leagues from Goya, but it is so out of the way that I could not reach it without much trouble and delay. In the north, on the banks of the Parana facing Paraguay there are more important plantations to claim my notice. I am told the interior of the country is a paradise, beautifully interspersed with groves of orange and lemon, and eminently agricultural. But I must not anticipate. I expect to be able to go on to Paraguay in the second week of December,

The weather has been very hot, the glass shewing in the shade 82 Fahr, the nights however are cool or even chilly. We met 16 sailing crafts going down the river, some laden with produce, others apparently coming from Paraguay.

The Hon. Mr. Washburne is expected from Asuncion by next steamer. Mr. Mackinlay leaves this for Cordoba today or to-morrow. There are not many visitors here at present. I regret that I was unable to view the Cordoba railway works, which I must do in my return, but I regret still more to learn that the 'terra-plen' is not continued, and the only sign of works is a gang of 40 or 50 men employed in making a new road whereon to land the railway

materials, soon expected to arrive. The Hotel de Commerce has a first-rate *cuisine*, and my experiments in gastronomy convinced me that they understand the science thoroughly: all the choice spirits of Rosario meet there and I was heartily greeted by some members of the Cock-tail Club as soon as it transpired that I had arrived. Their meeting takes place to-night, but I cannot accept the invitation, for the Esmeralda is getting up steam, and the whistle says "Excelsior."

UP THE RIVER,

Paraná.

I left Rosario, yesterday at 2 p. m., on board the "Esmeralda." The finish and arrangements of this steamer are first-rate and the state cabin, is fitted up like a drawing-room, occupying the whole fore-part of the vessel, with lovely boudoirs for ladies, and excellent ventilation.

On leaving Rosario, the first thing which called attention was Mr. Wheelwright's mole for landing materials for the Cordoba railway; they have cut away the 'barranca' and erected a wooden mass projecting into the river and almost finished: we could see the men at work. We next passed Urquiza's saladero, a very fine construction, but not at present in action; a short distance higher up we saw another, also idle. The Parana is here very wide, at least 2000 yards, and the current running 8 miles an hour, the water being very deep in the channels. At sunset we noted the clouds looked murky, and we expected a storm. The islands on all sides are low and slightly wooded, and we could see the mainland on either side.

This morning the scenery was much prettier, but as it was raining heavily we could not so much enjoy it. Most of us were up before sunrise, although we had not retired till after mid night, having entered into a long discussion about European politics and miscellaneous subjects. The sherry was first-rate, I do not know whether the speeches were so. The want of music was thus supplied, but we had an Italian organ-grinder on board, who refused to play, being a victim to dyspepsia.

About six leagues above Rosario we sight the edifice of San Lorenzo, with its tapering belfry and large convent. This was erected by the Franciscan missionaries, years gone by, with the probable view of forming a nucleus of civilisation on the frontier of the Indian territory, and it is excellently adapted for a river port, having a small cove hard by. But the emblem of religion is abandoned, in midst of a waste, and it seems a few friars are the only residents of the place. Even these were almost induced to run away, by Consul Hutchinson's remark to the prior, 'that it would make a first-rate cotton-mill.' The cove alluded to, was the scene of the first struggle for South American independence; General San Martin (1810) here attacked a Spanish force which attempted to land, defeating them with a handful of cavalry.

The high land on our left soon merges into a network of islands, the deep water channel skirting along the opposite coast, which presents a number of inlets, through which we get glimpses of wood and dale, perfectly charming, in contrast with the sloping 'barrancas' of sand-stone or tosca. The soil of these, generally presents to the eye a superficies of luxuriant grass, or thick shrubbery, and casually a grove of trees, resembling the olive, at a distant view. The section made in successive ages, by the river, shows a conjunction of geological strata, unfortunately beyond my ken. A thick, loamy, dark soil, of six or eight feet, covers a layer of sand,

beneath which latter, the hard tosca stretches down to the water's edge, the base being lined or interspersed with sand heaps, fragments of boulders, or trunks of uprooted trees, thrown as a tribute to the Paraná, by the genius of winds and waters.

The approach to Parana, is highly picturesque, towering bluffs of red sandstone, here and there relieved by a wild furze of deep green, the effect being highly pleasing to the eye. There are several lime kilns along the Entre Rian coast, as the sand here makes excellent lime: it looks like 'tosca' and the lime appears of the best quality, its snowy heaps studding the beach.

I saw a large English vessel apparently receiving cargo and some others of smaller size anchored about a mile below Parana, also two hulks used for coal deposits. The town of Parana is not visible from the landing place, and we cannot get abreast of the town owing to the banks and low water.

SCENERY OF THE PARANA.

The author of the "Tempe Argentino" should, in my opinion, have ascended this majestic river a little further ere he sent his sheets to press, for instead of subaqueous kitchen gardens and picturesque swamps. his genius must have expanded into an admiration of the sublime and varied perspective, which increases in beauty as we approach the fount from which Nature's bounteous hand bade this river gush forth at the epoch of Creation.

As only a comparatively small number of my readers has passed Rosario, I am almost surprised they should be so lavish in their praises of the charms of this river scenery, and I would fain depict in words my impressions of the upper Parana, as far as I have yet seen.

When we lose sight of the bluff on which Rosario stands, the coast of Entre Rios is not visible, while that of Santa Fé gradually declines towards the water level. Here and there a stray rancho indicates that pastoral avocations are not quite abandoned in a province which has been reduced almost to destitution, by being the theatre of so many wars. At times also we see a small group of horses or horned cattle, which have made their way down one of the fissures caused by rains or inundation to drink the mellifluous water, which for the first time I have learned to appreciate for its grateful and salubrious qualities. Before long, the islands on our right will have disappeared, and the continuous line of a bold loamy barrier, on either side, shews that the current here was uninterrupted, and consequently ran with tremendous force.

Our gallant vessel propelled by only thirty horse power, cleaves the impetuous downward current at the rate of seven miles per hour, and as we thread our way through the intricacies of the invisible channel, the Esmeralda seems to curvet capriciously over the glassy bosom, which extends a mile on either side. The sun goes down, and streaks of red purple cover the sky casting their reflection upon the water and surrounding objects. A profound silence reigns, disturbed only by the measured beat of the propeller, and an indescribable feeling of gloom or loneliness seizes your senses. The moon is up, and in spite of a dark cloud looming ahead, the queen of night proclaims her sway over the horizon.

As there are no mosquitoes, I could pass the whole night on deck, as I once did on the Mediterranean, star-gazing until day-break, admiring the thousand beauties of a mid-summer-moon-light so calculated to awaken in us thoughts. "Of youth and home, and that dear time."

THE ENTRE RIAN COAST.

On arriving at Parana yesterday morning, our steamer was boarded by the agent, Mr. Lorenzo Myers, a veteran Irishman of 73 summers, resident in this country since the year of independence (1816). He is a hale old man, seemingly no more than 50 years, and is reputed the most active individual in the town or province. He remembers when the blocks adjoining San Miguel in Buenos Ayres were fenced in with aloe trees (tunas), and has been an eye-witness of the numberless vicissitudes of the republic during the last half century.

We had not much cargo for Parana, but some passengers, of whom was Sor. Pondal, whose name was identified with the bonds of the late National Government, and who is now making a tour of inspection of the various Custom houses, for he holds a fiscal appointment at Buenos Ayres. There was also an Italian gentleman, going to Sta. Fé, and our little group felt the loss of two such pleasant companions. The steamer which used to ply across the Parana has been stopped, and passengers are obliged to confide themselves to little sailing-boats. A number of islands intervene, completely shutting out all view of the time-honored city of Sta. Fe, remarkable for its churches, its gradual and progressing destruction by the current of the river, and its proximity to the Gran Chaco and Rio Salado.

D. Pascual Rosas, ex-Governor of Sta. Fe, came on board, but, as I was writing to my cotton-friend, Sor. Calderon, and to the 'Standard,' I had not time to take any notice of him I sent Calderon six pamphlets, and promised to leave the sack of seed by the return voyage af the Esmeralda. We left Parana at 10 a.m., being forced to make a circuit of about two miles, to avoid the bank which has already almost closed up that port.

Viewed from the opposite side, Parana presents a respectable appearance, standing on an eminence of about 200 feet, which slopes down in front. In the crowd of white-washed buildings we distinguish the Church of San Miguel, situate in the Plaza, and the top of another in the outskirts, nearly finished. On a clear day the turrets of Sta. Fe may be descried from hence. I do not know how many leagues it is distant.

The river now washes the banks of Entre Rios, and on our right is a vast archipelago, on whose islands there is little timber, but a strong luxuriant grass, which is sold in Parana for fodder. There is a marked improvement in the scenery: amid a succession of gentle undulations on the right, the eye wanders over a rich champaign country, presenting much the idea of an English park or demesne. Groups of noble trees, like oaks, break the surface of a verdant vegetation, and Nature has outdone the fancy work of a landscape gardener in the rich variation of tints and foliage, the graceful outlines of hill and vale, the stately forms of pine and algarroba, which every moment present themselves The absence of habitations suggests a gloomy reflection to the economist, but the lover of romance and Nature finds the scene thus enhanced.

Five leagues from Parana we sight a cluster of ranchos, called "The Spaniard's," the owners of which usually hoist their flag to salute vessels passing by. Behind this little settlement, which is occupied in cutting timber, is the famous colony of Villa Urquiza, of whose cotton fields I have already spoken. A little further we meet

several boats crossing over to Santa Fe, one of them taking in tow a horse, whose head alone is visible. These animals swim much better than in Europe, and it will be remembered that Urquiza has several times passed at the Diamante an army of cavalry, for which Hannibal would have required rafts or bridges.

As we passed Diamante at midnight (24th) I had no opportunity of seeing the locality, but am told that the place is now deserted, the last inhabitant, an Italian pulpero, having carried away last week, in a cart, all his 'penates' and bacchanalian appendages. There are several azotea houses abandoned to the owls and biscachos.

Two hours' sail beyond Villa Urquiza brings us to a place called Conchillas, where we perceive an estancia house almost surrounded by trees. Next appears a lonely hut commanding a grand view from the barranca, and the adjuncts of a cattle coral and small port show that animals are here embarked for the saladeros.

I had forgotten to mention the splendid establishment of Messrs. Senorans, a little above Parana, remarkable for its great steam-power. There is not, however, much sign of activity, and I learn that the house made a bad speculation, buying horses in Corrientes, which although cheaper caused a loss, yielding in proportion to those of E. Rios as 10 to 35.

At Cerrito is the fine estancia of an Englishman, Mr. Henry Vidal, who lives here almost shut out from the rest of the world '*divisus orbe Britannicus*.' Some of the family ran out to look at us, as if cheered by the sight of the Union Jack, which floated astern. Here it was that during the campaign of Paz and Lavalle against Rosas, the Correntine army under General Ferré (now senator to Congress) abandoned the liberating cause, and returned by land to Corrientes, owing to local dissensions in that province.

The cliffs again approach the water, but instead of sand or tosca, we have argillaceous deposits, of red and purple colors, which are said to be very valuable for dyes, although not turned to use, as no one seems to interest himself in the speculation. Happily there is no jealous guardian of woods and forests, and several small skiffs in yonder island are loading timber, which is had for the cutting. These wood-cutters are Italians, who trade with Buenos Ayres, and the Genoese may be said to monopolize the small traffic of this river.

The river now breaks into a variety of channels, and the pilot has to take soundings, for the water is so low that our captain thinks the Paraguay-steamer must have grounded, as she has not yet passed, although she ought to be in Bajada on to-day. We cannot see the Gran Chaco, from which we are separated by numerous islands, teeming with tigers and small crocodiles; the latter are called 'cayman,' and resemble what naturalists term the iguana.

The weather was very hot all day, notwithstanding some showers in the morning, and the thermometer (we have none on board) ranged I should suppose at 90 to 95 Fahr. At sunset a heavy storm was brewing ahead of us, but when the moon rose it cleared off, and the night was fine and slightly sultry.

When I wrote my last letter (11 p.m.) we were within a few leagues of La Paz, and I lay down so heavily oppressed with sleep that the whistle of the steamer on arriving there (3 a.m.) did not awaken me. I felt some one tapping me on the shoulder, and got up, half stupefied, to shake hands with Mr. Greenway, who had come on board for his newspapers. We were equally glad

to see each other, and in his eagerness to find me he had roused up all the passengers by mistake, including Sor. Cabral, Mr. Spalding, and the other six. Mr. G. looked strong and hearty, but somewhat older, and keeps up his spirits wonderfully in this out-of-the-way place. He says the 20,000 cotton-plants laid down have all failed, being burned up by the heat, after they had attained some height above ground.

By the moonlight I could only distinguish a white-washed house, but was told that the straggling hamlet was further inward.

ISLANDS OF THE GRAN CHACO.

Times have changed wonderfully since twenty years ago, when the voyage from B. Ayres to Paraguay occupied half a year. In those days the timid navigators of the Parana crept lazily along the banks, sounding the current at every step, sheltering themselves under the barrancas when the least symptoms of bad weather appeared, and never trusting themselves, even under the most experienced pilot, to the perils of navigation by night. Hence the remark of an indigenous lady, that "she supposed the English packet, in its trip to Europe, always made fast to the trees at night time." The Italians first introduced a salutary change, making two or three trips annually, and the enterprise of the Paraguay government soon created a fleet of steamers which reduced the voyage to a few days. Still the windings of the river, frequency of sand-banks, and force of the current, call for the most constant attention, and going "aguas arriba," is rather tedious for those who are not admirers of the beautiful and picturesque.

Tradition says that the first Spanish expedition to Paraguay passed more than twelve months in exploring the long and tortuous course of the Parana, for although the direct distance is only 1200 miles, the way is rendered almost double as long by the necessity of crossing and re-crossing from one bank to the other. Certainly the adventurous settlers of the 16th century were men of surpassing energy, dauntless determination, and untiring perseverance. It is impossible for us to form an idea of the hardships and dangers they must have gone through, penetrating, in those frail barks, to the very centre of the continent, to establish a future metropolis amid the pathless woods and virgin wilds of an unknown country. Such as they then looked upon these cliffs and islands they are to day, for Nature, in her simplest and rudest garb, still holds undisputed sway in these silent and melancholy regions. For thousands of ages this mighty river has flowed on to the sea, and yet it is exactly the same as when first Creation dawned upon the universe. The arts or science of man are nowhere visible, for hundreds of miles, and the various layers of soil forming the islands only shew that during numberless generations the stream has continued to carry down its deposits till they have almost imperceptibly risen above the surrounding flood, decked out in all the charms of tropical Nature with trees of various kinds, most of them probably yet unknown to botanists.

A thick jungle of marshy grass and entangled underwood, which almost defies the entrance of man, affords a secure and favourite asylum for tigers, serpents, and alligators, except when the current rises to the tops of the trees, and a broad sheet of water stretches from either mainland to the opposite side. Then may be seen the tigers

swimming across, with powerful strokes, perfectly heedless of, and unmoved by, the rapid whirlpools. In many places the casual groupings of foliage, broken here and there by lovely rivulets which tempt you to follow their mysterious recesses, present a picture such as Salvator Rosa or Claude Lorrain never saw even in fancy. It is a pity to think that these islands are never to be turned to any purpose or defended against the torrent, for the soil is so loose that it will hold no structure. The river has in some places retreated considerably; there are persons still living in Rosario who remember when it washed the foot of the barranca; and the custom-house built on the strand fell down, a short time since, for the reason above stated. The bed of the stream has also changed often, and some towns erected on its banks are now almost inaccessible, so many islands intervene.

Leaving La Paz, we have the same general features already described. For some distance the river spreads out to an amazing width, the coast being on each side very low, and lined with timber. It partly reminded me of the Saone (between Chalous and Lyons) which I once descended during a heavy flood. I pictured to myself what American genius and enterprise would have made of this splendid watercourse, far surpassing the Mississippi in grandeur or expanse. I foresaw visions of vessels laden with snowy cotton, and bearing the fruits of Argentine industry to the marts of the world's commerce; instead of idly wasting the great resources placed by Providence at our disposal. What a glorious future of wealth, national greatness, and a position among civilised nations, if I could only make the lazy people believe me that labour signifies prosperity. I felt the zeal of a Francis Xavier, in going forth to convert the denizens of these wilds to a dogma as important in the industrial world as the Gospel was to Christianity. The Jesuits conquered not the savage Missions with spear and arquebuss, but with the emblems of religion. I came not as a political adventurer to traffic on men's credulity, but as a diplomatist of cotton, with pamphlets for my credentials, and some bags of seed for ammunition.

About 25 leagues above La Paz, we came to the mouth of the Arroyo Espinillo, which is the frontier line between Entre Rios and Corrientes. On Captain Page's map it is marked Sarandi, or Guayquiraro, which falls into the former: it is not navigable. Here we met some schooners of 150 tons, laden with hides and tobacco, the latter forming the upper part of the cargo, or what the sailors term 'troja.' It is not clear whether they are coming from Paraguay or Corrientes; one is named 'Magdalena.'

Again there is a number of these delightful islands, revelling in all the beauty of tropical vegetation, with palmetto trees, and a plant bearing golden leaves, easily mistaken for oranges. As we glide between the banks of these embowered gardens, washed by the limpid flood, I think of Moore's celebrated song—

Oh! had we some bright little isle of our own.

Or of the equally charming verse of the same Irish bard—

And when in other climes we meet,
Some isle or vale enchanting,
Where all looks flowery, wild, and sweet,
And nought but love is wanting.

Verily, St. Anthony would have exchanged Egypt for this lovely spot of retirement, so suited for a hermitage (provided it was low water.) But what do I see? lo! on the margin of the Gran Chacho, in yonder island, are two huts of palm trees, scarce large

enough to hold a man at full length. It is the abode of some daring wood-cutters, undeterred by the tigers, which swarm hereabout, or the distance from any trace of human life. Higher up is the little skiff pushing along under the trees, for the heat is excessive, at least 100 in the shade. There are three men, two of whom are evidently Creoles: the other, I thought, wore a Crimean shirt, but it is his tawny skin, for he is a tame Indian. The savages of the Chaco never come down here, as they have plenty of means to pursue their occupations of hunting, fishing, or wood cutting on the mainland.

Every few minutes we cross the river, which is here about a mile wide, and very shallow. The coast of Corrientes is low, but well wooded, and yonder is a little hut, elevated on poles, and with a tile-roof, which answers as the Capitania del Puerto for Esquina, this town being half a league distant, on the mainland. Some passengers are waiting for us, and with a tremendous whistle, the captain gives the signal 'stop her.'

DEPARTMENT OF ESQUINA.

Esquina is a well-built town of 1200 to 1500 inhabitants, situate on an eminence at a bend of the river Corrientes, near its confluence with the Paraná. It possesses a good church, public schools, juzgado and other edifices, extending along the crest of the hill for about a mile, most of the houses having azoteas, with wide verandahs for shelter against the rays of an almost tropical sun. The surrounding country is remarkable for its excellent pasture and the inhabitants are wealthy cattle-breeders, sheep being comparatively few. Mr. Hayes, an American merchant, is the only notable foreign resident in the town.

This gentleman has lived here nearly 30 years, having married a native: his son Daniel was educated in the United States and has a dry goods store, the father being temporarily absent on a visit to his native country: his brother was for some time a druggist in Buenos Ayres. In the year 1838 Mr. Hayes killed a serpent which measured 12 feet in length and 15 inches in circumference, and on opening the monster, three hens seemingly uninjured were found in its stomach: he sent the skin to the U. States, where it was stuffed, and is still to be seen. The bite of these reptiles is not fatal, as elsewhere: I will give a proof. My French fellow-passenger was one day sleeping siesta, when he felt the sting, of what he thought an insect, on his wrist. Getting up, he found a snake coiled around the foot of his stretcher-bed, and immediately killed him. Then squeezing the part affected till it bled, he heated a knife and cauterized the wound, after which he suffered no inconvenience.

Among the neighboring estancieros is Mr. Schweitz, late proprietor of the Europa hotel, Buenos Ayres, who bought out the establishment of a native widow, at four silver dollars per head of horned cattle: he acquired the transfer of a squatter's right (enfiteusis) for a mere trifle, paying a nominal rent to Government. The usual price of land is 4,000 silver dollars per square league. There is an abundance of tigers about here, and some years ago a washerwoman was devoured near the river. The custom-house or Aduana is a small wooden hut elevated on poles ten feet above the stream, in an island half a league distant from the town. The wretched edifice, notwithstanding the proximity of timber, cost the State no less than 1800 silver dollars: vessels call so rarely that sometimes no officials visit the place for several days. It hap-

pened some time back that a priest was left here by the Paraguay steamer, one evening, and being unable to thread his way through the thickets and cross rivulets, he resolved to pass the night here: some hungry tigers prowling about smelled human flesh and sacrilegiously resolved to make a meal of the reverend Docter. The latter taking alarm scrambled up on the roof, and sat on this unpleasant saddle of tiles until daybreak. As there was no steamer expected to arrive the usual passenger boat did not come down the arroyo hard by, and one of the wild beasts kept watch below, thinking his reverence might be driven by hunger to run the gauntlet and make towards town. In this manner the poor priest passed two awful days and nights before he was relieved from his perilous post. The Paraguay steamers expose passengers to this danger by landing them at the nearest point of land: a family was thus left at some distance from Parana, at nightfall, and, being unable to reach the town, had to light a large fire, to keep off the tigers, and thus pass the night.

The 'falua' or customs-boat comes alongside, with four passengers: it is a small gig manned by five sun-burnt Correntines in white duck uniforms, wearing swords, and caps with the motto Sub-delegacion de Esquina. Two small schooners are at anchor in the creek, and a few light canoes are paddled about by natives, which the least movement would overset. We delay but a quarter of an hour, to take in the passengers: one of these is M. Victor Lecomte, a Frenchman, collector of taxes in Corrientes, who came down to assist at the burial of his brother who died suddenly. This gentleman has given me much information about Cotton planting, as he was the person encharged by Government to distribute the seed. Mr. Spalding a Paraguayan, whose father (Scotch) served under Beresford, is going to Corrientes, where he forwarded some cotton-seed: he has, however, no confidence in the speculation.

The Gran Chaco continues on our left, in its savage grandeur, and the scenery is much the same as we have passed, except that the thickets have grown into forests, the trees lifting their massive branches to a great height: they are mostly very straight and covered with a dark green or light brown foliage. At intervals the sandy beach is strewn with withered and uprooted trunks. I am told this wood is highly useful for ship-building.

Six leagues above Esquina we pass Costa Tala, where the stream attains such an enormous width, that the current of deep water is almost lost, and the pilot is obliged to take to the boat and cast for soundings ahead of the vessel. We stop the steamer, for the line gives only 8 feet, and the Esmeralda draws seven. At length the pilot has found the channel, and fastened a demi-john for a buoy on either side. At half-speed we pass the difficult point, and the dinner-bell dispels all fear of running aground.

We pass two sailing vessels, one of which is 23 days out from Buenos Ayres. Some carpinchos or sea hogs show themselves on the river-bank, disporting in the grass; there is also a group of swans, and wild turkeys flit from branch to bough, especially that kind called 'dorado.'

Higher up on our left, a short distance inland, are the ruins of two Jesuit missions, Concepcion and S. Jeronima, the second near a stream called Arroyo del Rey. It is equally unaccountable and disgraceful that no attempts have been made in later times to fix colonies in these advantageous positions. On

the right we see a number of fires along the horizon, where the dwellers of the mainland are clearing off the brushwood and the tigers flee in dismay to the islands.

By daybreak we are in sight of Goya, where five schooners are at anchor, and a hut, about twice as respectable as that of Esquina stands on the edge of an island; acting both as Custom-house and landing place for passengers. We have much cargo for this place and will have some delay. A large boat comes alongside with the agent Sor Perdriel: the customs skiff also visits us. Meantime I will give my readers some information about the place, but the details are so important and lengthy that I will set them down under a separate heading.

NOTES ON GOYA.

Nov. 27th, 1863.

About the commencement of the present century, the site now occupied by the town of Goya was a cattle farm belonging to a Portuguese whose wife was named Gregoria, familiarly contracted into Goya. Here the ships passing used to call for beef, and the position was so favourable that the Government resolved to build a town thereon, and the first house was put up by Sor. Garcia, 1820, father of the fellow-passenger who is my informant. So late as six years ago, after a lengthened suit, the family succeeded in getting payment for the site so appropriated.

Goya is capital of the richest district in the province, and one of the finest towns on the Parana. The houses are of brick, and the population exceeds three thousand, including a large foreign element of Italians. Basques, and French. The plaza is very handsome, with a pyramid in the centre, 50 feet high, on one side, and a church not yet finished, of grand dimensions, the host being estimated at $150,000 silver, contributed by local subscription. The chief authority is a Gefe Politico, and there is also a Judge of 1.ª Instancia, with a lawyer and several small legal functionaries attached. The spiritual affairs of the place are in keeping of two priests, and although the climate is extremely salubrious, there are seven doctors to protect the public health. Dr. Newkirk (Standard agent) formerly of Fortin de Areco, Buenos Ayres. is in good practice: also Drs. Biondi and Ponsati, the first a Swiss, the second an Italian There are national free schools for both sexes, the female teachers of which are foreigners. Most of the inhabitants are rich estancieros, several of whom keep their carriages. A public conveyance is also hired out, at very moderate prices, for any part to which the traveller may wish to repair. The country is thickly wooded in some parts, orange groves being numerous. Although venomous reptiles are often seen, no accident ever occurs except to horned cattle which sometimes die in twelve hours after having been bitten. In Italy I have often known cows to be bitten, but they immediately eat a certain herb which cures them: here this remedy probably does not exist.

There are two English carpenters in Goya, but I could only learn that one of them is called Don Pedro, and is one of the oldest inhabitants. There is a Mr. Ramallon, native of Gibraltar. Both of the priests are Italians, this nationality being largely represented. The Basques have brick kilns in the suburbs; and many of the houses are two stories high. An excellent bridge crosses a stream on the outskirts. The streets are twenty yards wide, each quadra or block being 150 yards, furnished with three oil-lamps, but there

is no pavement, the soil scarcely requiring it, as the water flows off without forming mud. La Esperanza is the name of the weekly paper, published by Sor'Vaivien, which boasts 200 subscribers, and has its own printing office fitted up by subscription of the well-to-do residents. The police office is a handsome building, but the institution has fallen into disuse: happily the people bear a reputation of honesty, and peaceful habits. Lock-jaw frequently results from such trivial causes as the prick of a thorn, but the terror of infants "mal de siete dias" very rare, and the physicians are zealous in vaccinating all children. The post-office is very irregular. The public cemetery, about a mile distant, is well kept, with some fine monuments, and a handsome chapel. Such is the general prosperity of this industrious town that the citizens of Corrientes jestingly term it "the little B. Ayres."

The principal trade of the place consists in hides, wool, cheese, and oranges. On some estancias are found 500 milch cows, and the owners are so rich that it is proverbial "that there are no beggars at Gova." Orange groves are frequent, but the business is diminishing, while the excellent cheese is finding its way to the various ports "aguas abajo," a large quantity being sent to B. Ayres. Cotton would grow well here, the climate being warm and dry. Imports are received from Buenos Ayres, and some of the private carriages mentioned have cost there one thousand silver dollars each. The Paraguay, Brazilian, and Captain Bruce's steamers call here both ways, giving an impetus to trade.

FARMING IN GOVA.

Nov. 27th, 1863.

There is, in my opinion, no part of the Argentine republic so favorable for Irish sheep-farming, or offering such induce rents to poor immigrants as Goya. I would strongly recommend those estancieros who are sending their flocks out towards the Indian frontiers of Bragado, Junin, Rojas, Azul and 25 de Mayo to visit this district, confident that they will feel disposed to accept the unrivalled advantages of fertile land almost gratis, perfect security for life and property, cheap freights, low taxes, ready communication with Buenos Ayres and others too numerous to mention.

The Government valuation of land is 2,200 to 2,400$ or 53 to 60 thousand dols. Buenos Ayrean currency per league. The usual selling price ranges from 3 to 4 thousand dollars. There are no Indian marauders, the province being protected by two immense rivers; and the Guaranis who were converted by the Jesuits cannot be distinguished from Christians, having embraced the religion and habits of the people. This province is almost the only one exempted from wars and forms in every manner, in the political category, a wholly distinct nation from the unfortunate Argentine republic, being separated from its uneasy sisters by the Gran Chaco. Hundreds of little sailing vessels, navigated by the countrymen of Columbus, carry down its products to Buenos Ayres at the rate of 1 to 1½ reals per arrobe, or just half the freight charged by the 'carretas' between Villa Luxan and Buenos Aires. Meantime the terror of being 700 miles from Buenos Ayres is only figurative; in reality the Azul is much more distant: six steamers ply monthly to and fro, providing every convenience, and making the trip to B. Ayres in three or four days, whereas there are but two diligences monthly to Azul, and the mode of travelling very disagreeable. Horned cattle may be bought at 4 dollars, mares at 12 reals, and saladeros have been established

which are not subject to the exorbitant taxes of Buenos Ayres.

The sheep are not of a superior quality, and fetch a dollar each. It is just for me to add that the natives think the climate and soil unadapted for flocks, as the animals do not thrive, the grass is what is called 'pasto fuerte,' several diseases prevail among the sheep, which are in such little esteem that only a sufficient number is kept to feed the peons, the skins are thrown away as useless, and the business regarded unprofitable. I ask my readers, however, did not the same facts and ideas hold good in the campagne of Buenos Ayres 20 years ago, and may not these difficulties and prejudices be removed in a short time by efforts to care and refine the breed? In this trip we took up 8 Rambouillet rams, which were safely landed at Goya, for a native estanciero, shewing that better hopes are beginning to gain ground. It is not so long since the natives in Buenos Ayres burnt their sheep for fuel in brick-kilns, and carpetted the 'corrals' with the wool, an article which now forms just half (48 p ☉) of the total exports of this country!

The property-tax, 'contribucion directa,' is 4 per mil, per annum. Horses may be quoted at 4 dollars each, but fine animals fetch a doubloon, and sometimes two. The awful visitation of a drought, so formidable in Buenos Ayres is unknown, the whole country being intersected with streams and rivers. This causes an inconvenience to travellers in wet weather, when the currents rise and prevent a possibility of fording. On the high-roads boats are then provided, and rivers like Sta. Lucia, where no bridge is, have regular ferries throughout the year. As a general rule it rains little and freezes still less. The camp is diversified, at intervals level and undulating, bare and decorated with natural forests, besides a multitude of orange-groves, and timbers useful for building, to be had gratis. The natives are much more friendly and industrious than in the rural districts of Buenos Ayres, and very anxious to see foreign immigrants settle down, to assist in developing the grand resources with which the bountiful Creator has endowed the province, and Goya in particular.

Having said so much of sheep and cattle farming to interest men of capital in turning to these new and favored regions, I will now enter into the subject of cheese, which forms no small part of the revenue of Goya and Esquina and invites the poor immigrant to secure an easy and profitable livelihood. There is great demand for this article, milch cows abound on all sides, and the estancieros exclaim "all we want is hands to double the product and its liberal gains." Ten or twelve cows are calculated for each cheese, and a woman can make one of 12lbs. in a day. The market price is from 12 reals upwards and the proprietor gives half the proceeds to the maker, besides providing house, food, and all necessaries gratis. In this manner a woman can support her family and earn 3 shillings English per day, wholly independent of her husband's wages as a herd or cotton-planter. Sad to say, even at these high offers, an estanciero cannot procure half the requisite number of hands, so scarce is the population. A herd's wages is 10 Bolivian dollars, equivalent to 30 shillings per month, besides board and lodging, and half whatever cotton he may plant. What a pity that the starving operatives of Lancashire cannot reach "this land flowing with milk and honey."

I will not here enter into the matter of Cotton, as I have to visit, on my return, the large plantations of Sor

Ximenez on the river Batel, 15 leagues distant, which I understand are in a flourishing condition. Among the fruits are the orange, a grove of which acaording to Capt Page yields a silver dollar per tree, every year: these profits I believe have of late much declined. The Coco of the palm or nut called Ytahi is now exported, and held in high esteem at the B. Ayres market There are two other kinds of palm, one called the 'datil,' of which are made the branches used on Palm-Sunday, and producing a nut covered with a bitter excrescence which the Indians suck, but not used by Christians; the other called 'palma de teja' from its frequent employment as a roof for huts. Indian corn, grapes, and most productions of a warm climate grow here in abundance: the first, however, is not very lucrative this year having fallen from $7 down to 12 reals, so that some planters have preferred not to give themselves the trouble of gathering it in. This would not happen with cotton, at 3 reals per lb.

SCENERY OF THE PARANA.

near Empedrado Nov. 27th 1863

At Goya I was observing numbers of fish jumping about in the water, when a gaucho rode down to the beach, on a good horse, with the view of catching his breakfast. He was dressed like those of the B. Ayrean campaña, in fancy colored poncho, chiripa, and the recado or Argentine saddle such as we see in our own camps. Throwing a line into the water, he almost instantly drew out a large fish weighing about two pounds, and, unsheathing his knife, at once proceeded to scrape off the scales. wash him, and commence dissection. While looking at some horses with English saddles fastened to the Customs-hut, where a group of men were idly smoking and gazing on the steamer, my attention was drawn to a woman and child on the banks of the creek, who alternately washed their feet, ran about on the grassy soil and returned to the edge to fish: the woman was also smoking, and a skiff alongside seemed to indicate that she was decidedly amphibious, like her sister at Parana who came on board to row the passengers ashore. She soon retired to a canvass awning pitched under the trees, but although only 6 o'clock the sun was already high, and very hot.

Having discharged 20 tons of merchandize, mostly Paraguayan sweetmeats, brought back from Rosario, after three hours' delay we weighed anchor for Bella Vista. Just now the Paraguay mail boat 'Salto de Guayra'; two days over-due, appears slowly issuing from the islands, en route for B. Ayres. As we pass close I observe our old and respected resident, Mr. Daniel Gowland, amongst the passengers, and we exchange greetings. The port-official with whom I left two letters for the *Standard* goes on board, and she anchors, as we enter the narrow channel up-stream. Owing to the dense foliage we can see nothing of Goya, and the heat has already grown intolerable, while the Cha-ha awakens the echoes of the woody Islands with his strange, mocking cry: his name and exclamation in Guarani signifies "let us be going."

After a couple of leagues we pass a very picturesque locality known as Rincon de Soto. Here is a large saladero at present working, surrounded by a number of huts, and a fine bay admits vessels of some burthen to come close to the establishment. The owner is a German M. Holterhoff who bought the site from Government for 150 dols. There is another saladero at work, near Goya, belonging to Mr, Otto, who is at present on a tour in Germany. Not

far inwards about two leagues from Goya, is the ancient village of Santa Lucia, on a river of the same name: it was founded by the Jesuits, who built a stone church (the finest in the province) where the few neighbours still attend Divine service. A little further on is the ground marked out for a new town, Pueblo Lavalle, but as yet there is only a solitary house with an orange-grove. We now coast along the mainland of Corrientes, which presents an elevation of perhaps 100 feet. The camps gradually become bare and the familiar ombù, in lonely grandeur, stands forth the light-house of the Pampas. We pass the 'embouchures' of several rivulets with Indian names, none of which are navigable although wide as European rivers, with luxuriant vegetation over-shadowing their banks. Here let me remark that many of these, at high tide disappear, the majestic Paranà covering all that intervenes between the 'barrancas' on either side, and then the navigation is more critical. The river of Corrientes is an exception, and I learn that a small American steamer once ascended it to some 15 leagues from the mouth.

At 2 p. m. we approach the estancia of General Ferre, Senator to Congress, which is now the subject of a law-suit. It appears a tract of several leagues was granted to him many years ago, on condition of planting it with coffee: he tried and failed, and then turned it into a cattle farm. When cited by the authorities, he sold it to Messrs. Señorans of Buenos Ayres, but this by no means relieves him of the liability: he was thrice Governor and is very wealthy, having house-property in Buenos Ayres, Montevideo, and Rio Janeyro, yet affects the pauper; he is 80 years of age. It is a remarkable and unfavorable sign that he and many other capitalists, have removed their residence to Buenos Ayres, and Deputies Torrent, Igarzabal and others are preparing to imitate them.

The red sandstone bluff now ahead of us is an historic place called Las Cuevas, where the river at present (low tide) is hardly a hundred yards wide. Here, in the year 182-, before the neighboring town of Bella Vista was formed, lived in utter solitude a Portuguese estanciero named Cueva, whose cattle tempted the rapacity of the Chaco Indians. A band of these deadly savages on two occasions swam across the narrow pass and attacked his house. The fearless old man and his son gave the Indians a galling reception from a sky light and window, through which they fired as fast as the daughters could load the blunderbusses, and thus succeeded in driving them off. During 38 years they have never ventured another foray: the house and olive-grove are distinctly seen from the river, crowning a head land, on doubling which we have Bella Vista in the distance.

And well does it merit its name, for the next hour's sail is one of the most delightful that can be imagined. A chain of steep cliffs cut by the torrent, as if with a knife, is broken at short and regular distances by numberless fissures caused by the rains, and the line is as straight and uniform as any array of soldiers. Yonder is the orange-mount of Mr. Henry Hall, with its dark green outline against the horizon, and as we approach, the files of trees are clearly discernible. In this remote, lovely, and semi-barbarous region our countryman has fixed his residence, but as I intend to visit him shortly I will hurry on to the port now at hand.

Bella Vista, seated on a gentle slope, in the midst of tropical foliage, is the most charming picture I have ever beheld. Neither Genoa, the superb nor famed Palermo, nor sweet Messina

with hoary Etna in the backgroud. nor the oft sung Bay of Dublin can compare to the Norfolk Island of Corrientes. Like the Australian Paradise it was first peopled by a settlement of convicts, sent thither under General Ferre in 1826. It now contains about 1000 inhahitants, having some azotea houses, plaza &c., and is one of the new cotton-districts, of which hereafter. Nestling in Orange-groves and palm-trees are several small huts thrown as if by chance on the hill-side and commanding a grand view of the Paraná and Grand Chaco. I do not know whether the natives have inherited the propensities of their forefathers, but, certes, that is a wild looking assemblage on the beach. The men are dressed as fancifully as Calabrian fishermen, leaning in a boat upon the strand, and eyeing us strangely. The women dressed in light raiments are washing naked children, and the color of the inhabitants is tawney, though their features are regular and even expressive.

Mr. Scott, customs-officer, comes on board, saluting us in English; he is reputed a good linguist. We take in a French passenger, resident in San Roque (7 leagues E. of Bella Vista) who tells me Cotton has been largely and successfully planted there, one man having 30 leagues (110 acres) fenced and laid down. In ten minutes we are off again, having 25 leagues before us: Bella Vista is 18 leagues above Goya.

We see a little above the town the scene of an American cotton plantation, started here by some enterprising Yankees in 1853. Whether owing to a bad selection of soil, or mismanagement on the part of the Mayordomo, the undertaking failed and was abandoned. A native family now resides there, who pulled up all the cotton, to substitute oranges.

We have to return two leagues to get the channel, and glide by the Gran Chaco. A canoe with three tame Indians is under the bank, and on top an emcampment of 8 or 10 woodcutters who carry on a good trade with Corrientes. Now again islands, on which we can see several carpinchos or river-hogs, much resembling a pig. The water is so low we twice touch bottom. The heat, which must have passed 100 Fahrenheit, has a little abated, and we sit on deck, after sunset, talking about the Indians, Cotton, paper-money &c., and enjoying the tropical scenery around. We are now 1000 miles from B. Ayres in the heart of S. American wilds, and I think of my friends behind, and of the B. Ayrean Glee Club. The river is still a majestic flood, 2 miles wide, and as it is past midnight and sunrise will see me in Corrientes, I turn in.

IN SIGHT OF CORRIENTES,

Nov. 28th, 9 a. m., 1853.

Before sunrise we passed Empedrado, where very large quantities of cotton-seed have been sown, under the auspices of the active Juez de Paz, Sor. Bombo, a native of Buenos Ayres. At 7 a. m. we came abreast of Don Domingo Latorre's famous quinta, with its 5000 orange-trees, and picturesque mounts of cypress, poplar, &c. This is distant from the capital five leagues by land, but the windings of the river make it seven. Nearer our destination is the quinta of ex-president Derqui, finely situated on the river-bank: the fallen ruler was lately expelled owing to his frequent assemblages of mal-contents, in defiance of the law. At this place the Chaco looms in the distance, with its dark fringe of impenetrable forests. Very little of Corrientes can be seen before landing or passing "aguas arriba;" in another

letter I will give my first impressions, and some details respecting the place where my labors and investigations properly commence, and where all hopes of Argentine cotton-planting may be said to converge.

ADIEU.

ARRIVAL AT CORRIENTES

My mission begins.

Nov. 29th '863.
Hotel del Globo, Corrientes.

At 10 A. M. yesterday the Esmeralda came to anchor, within a few hundred yards of the Custom house, and the bustle of passengers looking for their luggage was increased by the invasion of a number of boatmen, officials and interlopers. A sickly looking youth handed me a card 'Pablo Buello, Hotel Globo,' and as Deputy Cabral had already recommended me the house I put myself under the guidance of this 'commissionaire.' Having learned that the Governor closed his office at noon, until the following Monday, I donned my black coat, hat, gloves &c resolved to hasten thither at once. The boat had no awning, and there I sat under a scorching sun for some minutes, stationary till my face burned like a coal, for the boatmen had not all their luggage yet, so I returned to the Esmeralda to take a view of the city.

Corrientes covers a plateau elevated about 60 feet over the waterlevel, so that I could see little but the church-towers, and the few irregular edifices situate on the slope. On the extreme right is a graceful country-house belonging to Dr. Vidal: a large shrubbery leads up to the door, and a corridor all around the house has an effect of comfort and elegance. The line of beach is studded with dusky washerwomen perfectly regardless of the fact that the thermometer stands over 90 in the shade. There are scattered fragments of a dark stone, said to be very good for building though not much used, it looks like 'tosca,' but is hard as granite. Beyond Vidal's quinta is a saladero, built by the late firm of Stock and Hughes of Buenos Ayres at considerable expense: the present owner is a Correntine. A tanning establishment and timber-ground form the centre of our picture, with the Custom-house, Casa de Gobierno, several palm ranchos, and a sprinkling of orange trees to fill up the whole, giving a strange and not unpleasing aspect. The dark belt of foliage on the river's opposite bank, at a distance of 300 yards, is the Gran Chaco, and yonder canoe impelled by 4 lusty oarsmen is returning from the city with Indians who traffic, or serve as peons, at Corrientes: they are distinguished from their christianized brethren by their wearing no covering on their heads. The canoe is a light skiff with high prow, and no sails: it is easily capsized, but the Indians being excellent swimmers right it again, and are seldom drowned crossing the river.

At length the boat is ready, and a few minutes bring us to shore. I paid the boat-man half-a-dollar, and give my travelling-bag to the 'commissionaire. who in the blandest tone imaginable asks me to procure him a peon to carry it Telling him that that was his business I turn my steps up the hill, sinking, every moment, over six inches in the sand. Close to the Capitania is a group of damsels to whom I politely take off my hat: then entering the Custom-house I get permission to pass my bag without examination, declaring there is nothing contraband. Advancing to the door of the Government-house, where a dozen fellows are lounging in the shade, while the perspiration runs down

my face, I enquire for His Excellency, and a mulatto aide de camp with gold hilted sword at once steps forward to whom I give myname and the two flattering letters of introduction from the Minister of the Interior and Dn. J. J. Mendez. In two minutes I am ushered into a spacious well furnished saloon, & Governor Lagraña cordially shaking hands with me, leads me to a sofa. "My friends, said he, Dr. Rawson and Sor. Mendez recommend you to my especial care, and I will endeavor to make your visit as agreable and as successful as possible. I thank you for the interest you take in this province and for this visit, hoping that our common aim may be realized." We then conversed about cotton, his excellency informing me that much of the seed was destroyed by a worm, before the plant appeared over ground, but in such cases the people far from loosing courage sowed again. By his directions seed was distributed gratis, and plantations now were springing up in various parts of the province. Those in the vicinity of the capital being most important, he would procure me a friend's carriage to visit the same. As I expressed a desire to see those of Empedrado, Bella Vista, San Roque and others distant several leagues, he promised me an order for post-horses, and an officer to accompany me. Before parting, he invited me to his private residence, and enquiring where I stopped promised to call on me at the hotel. I may here state that Governor Lagraña is a tall, portly man, about 45 years old, dark complexion, with a few grey hairs, an open countenance, kind and unassuming manner, and a general expression of *bonhommie* indicative of his real character: he is an estanciero by profession, less remarkable for learning than for a patriotic desire to advance his country, I regret to learn that his minister's unpopularity damages him in public esteem.

Going in search of my hotel I met a gentleman with an umbrella, who kindly undertook me to shew me the way, and shielded me from the burning rays. We passed along three or four blocks near 150 yards of very irregular construction; most of the houses had corridors which covered in the whole foot path, the windows being barred as in B Ayres. No block could be called complete, for palm-ranchos and orange gardens alternated with tile roofs, and azoteas. The streets were about 60 feet wide, and the houses numbered 385, 480, and 510 &c: I could not see any small numbers, and conclude that they imitate Insurance policies beginning a figure they can never reach.

The plaza struck me as being much the same as it was 3 centuries ago: on the North side is the Matriz or principal church, an old edifice 80 yards long. with a tile roof, and at a short distance a bell tower 70 feet high in which is the town-clock. The West side contains the Cabildo where the Law-courts and prison are guarded by a bare-footed picquet of Federal troops of the Line. In front are two antique houses, one of two storeys. and the Merced church, not yet white-washed, and two belfries, and a cloister attached for Franciscan friars. The house of Sor Pampin ex-governor, with a few others of less note, make up the South side, and a column some 60 feet high stands in the centre of a multitude of weeds, around which are wooden posts but no seats: the column is surmounted by a diminutive female armed with a lance, and bears the inscriptions, 25 de Mayo 1810, 9 Julio 1816. On the pedestal are the busts of 4 generals. The Cabildo is a handsome structure, 2 storeys with arches supporting a square tower of

Moorish build, which commands a view of the country around.

Knowing that the best way to ingratiate one's-self with a new friend is to speak his vernacular, I saluted mine host of tho Globo in the language of Dante, and procure a clean, airy, apartment wherein to take 'siesta.' The windows (2nd storey) are of stained glass, with Venetian blinds. The *cuisine* of this is faultless for those who are not squeamish about garlic. As yet I have seen but one mosquito since leaving Buenos Ayres, ond the alarm of kind friends on this head was perfectly needless.

At 3 p. m. I sallied forth to reconnoitre the town, for an hour, which had the effect of convincing me it is a miserable place, and of peeling the skin off my nose, for Corrientes is really more Indian than Christian, and the heat at that hour was absolutely intolerable. I passed through the market, where fruit-stalls were numerous, and the open space around reflected the sun's glare, with painful force. Beyond this there were only scattered ranchos ten or twelve feet square, roofed with the bark of the 'Palma de Teja' (not the leaves as I incorrectly stated before). This bark is shaped like a tile in pieces of six feet long, seemingly unfastened in any manner. The occupants of these ranchos were women and children, of copper color and good features: they are almost pure Guarani blood, rarely speaking Spanish, although identified with the Christians, in religion, habits and association. Some looked at me with surprise, for the streets were then deserted: a number of dogs lay about, but, better-bred than those of Buenos Ayres. offered not even to bark. Naked children were rolling in the sand, but the women did not offend delicacy by any paucity of raiment.

After dinner I went to see Mr. Robert Billinghurst, who was so kind as to lend me a horse and take me to Sor. Aguilar's plantation, but this will require a separate chapter. On my return I visited Sor. Alvarez, editor of the 'Progreso,' a well-conducted semi-weekly paper. This gentleman is also post-master, and a young man of much intelligence: he has promised me some historical data concerning the city and province, which I shall be happy to incorporate in a future letter. I understand there are three English residents here: Mr Pemberton who has recently married a Correntine lady, Mr. Morgan a clerk in the Revenue department, and Mr. Harvey, formerly a book-keeper, whose father-in-law is a wealthy native estanciero. There are a good many French and Italians, and a few Germans. The prime minister Sor. Juan J. Camelino is a native of Buenos Ayres, who came here as an apothecary, and is now a physician. Negroes are very rare, but the constant mixture of Guarani and Castilian has left but little pure white blood.

Cotton-fields in Corrientes.

Sor Aguilar's Plantations.

Nov. 27th 1863.

Corrientes.

It being an admitted fact that Cotton has been grown, cultivated and woven into fabrics for home use, during time immemorial in this province, and that *Gossypium arboreum* is found wild all over the interior, I resolved to devote my attention principally to the new plantations laid down within twelve months back, when the *Standard* preaching, seconded by Governor Lagraña's aid succeeded in arousing or resuscitating a Cotton fever in Corrientes.

About an hour before sunset, I started, in company with Mr. Billinghurst, for Sor Aguilar's quinta, distant about

a mile from the city. We passed the cemetery, which contains a turreted chapel, and several massive white-washed mansolsmns, resembling those of Buenos Ayres: it is however so near the town that there is some idea of making a new one further out. Threading our path through palm huts and quintas, we arrived at an orange grove belonging to a friend of my con ductor. Here alighting, the old man invited us to rest, a moment under the shade of his verandah, but I preferred to inspect the quinta, which comprised 250 orange trees. The fruit was small and green, and the trees displayed luxuriance of growth and foliage, being about 50 high and much larger than I had seen in Italy or elsewhere. The owner told me the average yield was 500 per tree in a grove, but he pointed to one standing alone and assured me it gave 2000 oranges, and some in open sites, have yielded four to five thousand in a crop. The usual price is 12 to 18 reals per thousand, but this year it fell as low as ten reals.

Mounting our horses, we crossed a tract of arid soil, which in wet seasons is a marsh, and reached our destination in a few minutes. Mr. B. informed me that this quinta, covering some 40 acres, has already cost the owner 1500 doubloons: the soil is bad, which seems to have animated him to expend enormous labor and capital on its improvement. Sor Aguilar came out to meet us, and after first introduction I informed him that the *Standard* had much applauded his Bill (for he is a local Deputy) to grant public land gratis to all cotton planters. He told me the measure had been unfortunately overruled by an amendment, which gave a squatter's right rent-free to planters, so long as they raised Cotton. We then went to see his plantation, which amounts to 50,000 hills in the following manner.

In last January he laid down about 20,000 hills of Corrientes seed which came up very well, but did not fully ripen, owing to its being sown so late. Of this quantity he pruned one-half, leaving the rest untouched, by way of experiment. Frost being hardly perceptible in this country, the unpruned plants suffered not at all, and I found them about five feet high, looking quite healthy, the pods already appearing. The pruned plants were perhaps a yard high, fresher and greener than the others, and mostly in flower. Both these lots were planted three feet asunder, with lanes between the files nearly five feet wide. The soil was thrown up around the roots, and did not look parched, although it had not rained for five months. I should have classed these plants as Shrub-cotton, but am told the native species grows to a great height, sometimes 30 feet.

The next lot was Georgian, probably of the seed sent by the Association to the *Standard* office, or of Messrs Kerr and Grierson's importation, It was evidently herbaceous Cotton only a few inches over ground, having been planted more than six weeks, and not yet in flower. The lanes were about six feet wide, and Indian corn was growing in the intervals. Sor Aguilar told me the cotton-plants generally came over ground in three to five days. This plantation was about equal to that of Corrientes seed, in extent, and so healthy that I did not perceive a single hill where the seeds had missed or been destroyed by the worm.

The third field, about 100 yards square, had been planted only six days before my visit, and very few plants had come up: these were mostly of two leaves, not unlike the bean-plant, supposed to be Egyptian seed, and sown

at about a yard apart. The owner ascribed the tardy growth to the heat and dryness of the weather, and waited a shower of rain before he would again sow the plot, in case the seeds had entirely failed. A large piece of ploughed land was ready to receive another quantity of seed, for Sor Aguilar is resolved to raise his plantation to the number of seventy thousand hills. I told him I thought it too late, but he is not afraid, and will commence to lay down the 4th field to-morrow.

To exemplify his energy, I may mention that he has a large brick cistern, erected near the well, in the middle of the quinta, and leaden pipes are laid down under ground, for purposes of irrigation. He has two American ploughs, which cost him $14 and $12, and is anxious to acquire the newest agricultural implements.

The ground under Cotton exceeds five cuadras, which is about 20 acres: calculating the usual ratio, this will give 20 bales clean cotton, (86000 lbs.) valued to-day at 22 pence per lb. in Liverpool. Taking off 20 per cent for freight, charges, cleaning &c. it will produce $3,000, a truly magnificent return. I advised him, however, to plant the tree rather than the shrub cotton, as Egyptian species will give crops for several years, almost without labor. He has several farm servants with their families, who will suffice to pluck the cotton, and their wages are very low:

Peons $4 per month, women 12 reals. children gratis.

On taking leave of Sor Aguilar he warmly thanked me for visiting his little farm, where, "like rigid Cincinnatus" he lives retired from the noisy world, seeking to advance his country by the creation of a new staple, while pigmy politicians shout and bluster, about Liberty, Congress, free opinions &c.

In our return, Mr. B. pointed out to me several trees of wild cotton which produce a small boll that never comes to maturity. Probably it is the degenerate offspring of some Jesuit plantation, for the Indians still call it in Guarani by a word signifying "for cotton." Several bare-legged women pass us, coming from the river, and bearing on their heads large clay water-jars, not quite so elegant as Etruscan vases, but possessing the valuable property of refrigerators. These females are muscular and well shaped, models of strength and symmetry. Mr. B, who has resided here over 20 years, speaks Spanish, having nearly forgotten English, although late British vice-consul: he does not understand much Guarani as the better classes prefer Castilian. He condemns Sor Aguilar for going so heavily into cotton, and I quite agree with him, that if everyone plants a little it would be better than a few large establishments.

We halt at this handsome two-storey house, surrounded by orange-trees, and belonging to Sor. Avalo, who, with two others, is sitting on the azotea enjoying the cool hour which follows sunset. Ascending by a wide staircase, there is a round of salutations, the two friends being Sor. Pampin, ex-governor, and the Juez de Paz of Caa-caati. Sor. Avalo produces some genuine English ale, and after hearty congratulations on the death of the Chacho, and Flores' victory over Lamas, the talk turns on Cotton. Sor. Avalo mentions a tree on his estancia which used to give 17 lbs seed-cotton, but was cut down for fire-wood! Formerly every house had its plantation and gin (made of wood), and the females even of rich families spent their time in spinning all the articles of household wear.

Sor. Avalo shewed me two beautiful counterpanes, nicely embroidered, and weighing each over 6 lbs, entirely home manufacture. Here is a long cotton cloth, fine and soft, measuring eight yards, the produce of eleven cotton seeds a present from the Minister. He sowed them last year, and from the fleecy balis, cleaned and spun, manufactured this specimen of Correntine fertility and industry. He offers to make me a shirt of it, as its quality is greatly preferred by the natives, over English goods, for its blandness next the skin, and home made shirts and drawers command a high price. I content myself with a yard of the material for a sample. This gentleman promises to plant some thousands of hills in compliment of my visit to Corrientes.

The Juez of Caa-caati hands me a report to the Governor shewing that he has assembled eighty poor families on a piece of public land, given them gratis on condition they plant Cotton and Maize. They have laid down several thousand hills, and the plantation promises to be very successful. The step is the more salutary as these poor people were formerly forced to subsist on charity or theft. He asked me to accompany him thither, but a journey of 80 leagues in this weather is rather heavy, and I intend to leave for Paraguay on the 7th.

I find the natives invariably expect 1 lb seed-cotton per tree, but this is double the average yield in the United States. They are all anxious to sell it unginned, and I find much difficulty in persuading them that the seed is not worth quarter its charge for freight. It will be necessary either for the Governor or some merchant here to purchase one of Consul Hutchinson's Macartney roller-gins, which only cost 5 doubloons, and then the article can be sent to Bs. Ayres, cleaned and baled, at the very low freight of a real and a quarter per arrobe (25 lbs). or 1½ per cent of its value, whereas unginned it would cost 6 p. c.

On the whole I am glad to be able to say the people are very ready to accept my preaching, and I hope I do not flatter myself in saying that my arrival here has been a stimulus to Gossypium; although some shrewd heads can't well see my object and doubt very much that it is all for the good of Corrientes.

LIFE IN CORRIENTES.

Corrientes, Nov. 29 1863.

The rain pours down in torrents. I am a prisoner in my hotel, and sooner than get vexed with myself and the waiter for the state of the weather, I will send a third letter from Corrientes. I am now seven days out from Buenos Ayres, and have written 46 pages M. S. for I neither rest on my oars nor pass anything unnoticed.

The hour of 8 was fixed this morning for the benediction of a new church, called El Rosario, situate in the N. E. extremity of the town. I had agreed for a rendezvous with Mr. Billinghurst and others, at that place, but the morning looked so murky and menacing that I was half doubtful about going, The streets were nevertheless filled with persons repairing to the function, and in the market-place I noticed groups of gauchos with flowers in their ears, and short scarlet pants, who had been also attracted by the feast. If I were a draughtsman I should have sketched 'el Mercado' with the string of gaily decked traffickers, the picturesque fruit sellers, the lounging gauchos, and turbulent urchins. Five minutes' walk brought me to the new plaza, on whose East side stands the temple in course of completion; the walls, roofs, belfry, and vestries are finished, but the floor is

still a succession of clay mounds, and the interior only exhibits a temporary altar. In the porch was a military band of music; and half-a-dozen Franciscan monks (in jerry hats) leaned against the colonnade. Mr. Lotero (partner of Mr. Billinghurst) was running about everywhere, and it was speedily whispered that the Governor, who was to be god father of the 'church,' could not attend, from illness. Meantime I ascended to the roof, over 50 feet from the ground, and had thence a magnificent view of the capital, suburbs, Parana, and Gran Chaco.

The city looks almost a parallellogram of 60 or 70 cuadras, but wholly different from anything European. In fact I almost fancied it was Singapore, Tanararivo, or Pondicherry. There are about 1500 palm-ranchos, 200 tile-roofs, and 100 azoteas of one or two stories: also four steeples, three miradores, six flags-staffs, a few slender palms and an infinity of orange trees, amid which the houses seem to nestle for protection from the sun.

Suddenly a carriage enters the plaza, the band plays, the bells peal out, the little boys let off crackers, the monks come out to meet His Excellency, but it is not he, for Sor Lagraña is in bed and has sent the Ministers in his place. Two secular and six regular clergymen form a procession with wax tapers, the Minister holding one, and the ceremony of benediction is gone through, after which High Mass is sung. This church was commenced by Puyol A.D. 1856 and the works abandoned in 1858 when the reverend Governor Rolon resolved to set about building another, and both are still unfinished. The *Rosario* is estimated at $ 130,000; the architect is a vulgar looking Italian: Argentine, Italian, Spanish, Brazilian and French banners were displayed on or near the edifice, and a crowd of 5000 people assisted at the function.

At 10 o'clock it began to rain heavily, with thunder and lightning, and I beat a retreat with Sor Ceballos (whom I had met at Sor Aguilar's) to his house, which is one of the finest in Corrientes. Here he introduced me to his father and wife, the former a venerable old man, the latter of French parentage Sipping *mate* we passed an hour chatting about the country and its inhabitants.

Rural occupations may be said to make up life in Corrientes, and most of the estancieros are wealthy enough to live with ease in the capital. They are very hospitable, and make a favourable impression on the stranger. Even the lower classes bear a better character than in the sister provinces, and one can travel with the greatest safety through the country. It is true the 'Esmeralda' takes down, this trip, 38 prisoners in irons, under a military guard: but these men have been guilty of the very pardonable crime of desertion from the ranks. Large quantities of maize are raised, and I hear in some cases of three crops yearly, but the consumption being disproportioned with the yield, and no export of the article, it is grown comparatively valueless. As yet the inhabitants have discovered no method of preserving oranges, and millions are suffered to go to waste, which might fetch in Buenos Ayres two or three reals a dozen. Sr. Ceballos gave me two, which looked wrinkled, but were sweet and juicy. Lumber forms no inconsiderable a pursuit: Correntine timber is large and tough, and I have seen yards full of purple-coloured blocks, used for boat-building and exportation. The forests of the Gran Chaco, also give employment to 500 hardy wood-cutters, who are protected from the aboriginal

enemies by a military fort, mounted with cannon, besides being themselves always well armed and on the alert.

The streets in Corrientes being unpaved, and the houses unplastered, it gives a sorry effect: at night it is difficult to go out, for a wretched oil-lamp, every 50 yards, only makes the gloom more palpable, and at 11 o'clock their flickering light is extinguished. The serenos commence at 10 their nasal drawl in the identical tones adopted in B. Ayres. I have not seen any policemen, but a useless garrison of 350 men of the 7th batt. serves to remind us of the National authority: they are commanded by Col. Lezica. and the Major sports a brilliant French uniform such as you see on the Quai D'Orsay, or Champs de Mars. Cats are very scarce, and rats I believe also, but not so venemous reptiles, I have seen a kind of spider, perfectly harmless, which clusters like bees and produces a species of silk, which on being sent to Paris was reported very good. Mr. Lix, an enterprising German, clerk in the Provincial Bank, has introduced the silk-worm; he is also a strenuous friend to Cotton, and has moreover, invented a method of curing beef in cakes, which is about to receive a patent, and promises to serve Corrientes.

There is a small theatre next my hotel, in which an amateur company was to give a performance to-night for the benefit of a distressed widow: the weather however has postponed it till Thursday. The Correntinos have a taste for music: there are 24 pianos in the town, and the Franciscan friars (who have two convents) lately constructed a first class organ. Billiards are not played to much excess, but I have not yet seen a book-store in the city. No love of display is visible, and the carriages of all kinds do not number 20. The state schools for both sexes are six in number, in the city, and attended by some hundreds of children: I understand there is also a private school for a more liberal education. During the hot month most offices are open from 5 to 10 in the morning and 4 to 7 in the afternoon. Many Chaco Indians work as peons; they dress like gauchos, are very ill-looking, and wear their hair flowing over their shoulders. The carts are lightly built, and produce is made up in hides, "chiguas," weighing 150 to 200 lbs.

I intend to seek fuller details about this place. If life consisted in eating, drinking, sleeping and not working hard, Corrientes would form a terrestrial paradise; but all the nobler aims of our existence, the charms of society, the atmosphere of progress, science, and intellectual refinement are wanting, and much as I admire the pastoral simplicity of the people I feel that such a Golden Age has passed by, and even B. Ayres looms out in the distance as a beacon of civilization.

NAVIGATION OF RIO VERMEJO.

Corrientes Nov. 30th 1863.

On taking up the *Progreso* of yesterday I found some articles which afforded me much satisfaction. In reference to my arrival was the following complimentary salute:

"Among the passengers per Esmeralda is Mr. Michael Mulhall one of the editors of the *Standard*, of B. Ayres. This gentleman has always done full justice to the progressive measures of our Government and interested himself in the welfare of Corrientes We understand he comes on important business respecting Cotton-planting; and we cordially greet him."

Of greater importance, however, was the news that D. Jose Maria Arce had

just arrived from the Rio Vermejo, after a hazardous and toilsome voyage of 350 leagues, from Oran. After cotton-planting there is nothing that promises such splendid results to Corrientes as the navigation of this river which would open up an immense territory of unrivalled fertility, constitute an easy highway to the republic of Bolivia, and make this port the mart of the upper provinces, now cut off from all intercourse. I therefore regarded the coincidence of our arrival as a happy omen for this country.

Last night I had the pleasure to meet this fearless pioneer of commerce in the hotel, and from him I learned some particulars of his daring feats and adventurous life. Sor Arce I may premise is a tall and muscular man, some 40 years old, with weather beaten visage and a pair of lustrous black eyes. Constant exposure to the elements and the fatigues of herculean labors have spoiled his complexion and, curved his features in a manner to render him anything but an ornament in the saloons of the Club Progreso. But if energy, devotion and magnanimity be taken as a criterion he is a man, in the noblest sense of the word, and one whom it will be difficult to match in the Argentine Republic. He is the father of Vermejo navigation, and this is his 5th voyage down its virgin current. Although a native of Bolivia, he has so long resided in our upper provinces that he considers himself an Argentine, and his dream since boyhood has been to develop this new artery of the republic. He made his first descent in 1855, on a raft, following the windings of the unknown stream, a course of 1200 miles, through dense forests, undeterred by the Indians, wild beast, perils of navigation, rays of a tropical sun, and fury of the elements.

The grand problem was solved, his work half achieved, as he pushed his frail raft into the waters of the Parana; but, alas! the era had not yet come when this Argentine Franklin might expect a generous reward from Government, for discovering our North-west passage. Like Columbus, or, to cite a more modern case, like Wheelwright he was received as a lunatic, the more so as he sunk a handsome fortune in endeavoring to continue and work out his darling enterprise. Subsequently he constructed boats of light draught, carrying cargo from Salta, Oran, and the confines of Bolivia. Last year the Lavarello expedition, in the steamer Gran Chaco, went up nearly as high as Esquina Grande, where it still remains. The National Government offered a subsidy for steam navigation as far as that point, but Lavarello wants 5 or 10 leagues of the same, and it is generally thought the enterprise is undone, as debits and expenses are very heavy and no cargo can be had.

Sor Arce being advised that the river was very low, and Capt. Lavarello assuring him that he would run aground he lightened his cargo and set out (Oct. 4th) with three boats and two rafts. In this descent he found he had been deceived and unnecessarily delay, for the river was nowhere less than five feet deep, whereas his vessels drew only 27 inches. The boughs of trees in some places obstruct navigation, and the Government subsidy would have been better laid out in clearing away such slight difficulties. In his last voyage, Sor Arce lost two men, a Bolivian sailor killed by an Indian's poisoned arrow, and an American wounded in the hand in like manner. He has brought 150 tons cargo and 10 passengers, including his brother Dr. Arce (with two secretaries) who has credentials from the Bolivian Government as Minister Plenipotentiary to

the Argentine and Paraguayan cabinets: his principal business being, to make treaties for the navigation of the Pilcomayo for which end he proceeds to Asuncion next Monday, and afterwards to B, Ayres.

Sor Arce's life has been a series of perils: on one occasion his crew resolved to murder him, while asleep on shore, but he was rescued by the fidelity of a Dublin sailor, named William Martin his constant companion.

A sister-project with the above, is the opening a pass through the Gran Chaco, to unite this city with Santiago The distance is about 120 leagues, but most of the road is open, and not more than 30 leagues offers any difficulty. The numerous wood-cutting establishments serve as so many forts, and if a few garrisons were conveniently disposed, this would increase the timber business, and secure easy transit for passengers and produce, which at present are obliged to make a circuit of 400 leagueas: for instance Sor Arce is about to take a troop of mules to Santiago, via Coronda, Sta Fè, which makes the distance three-fold.

In 1850, President Derqui requested him to attempt an experimental passage from Corrientes to Santiago, offering him a body guard of 60 men. Sor. Arce undertook the perilous enterprise without any pecuniary reward, and solely for the public good. Governor Pujol, however, threw impediments in his way, and when a motley troop of undisciplined peons was enlisted and equipped, no officer could be procured to command them. After numerous delays, during which heavy rains had fallen, the expedition had set out, and crossing the Paraná, began their forest journey. Most of them were little prepared for the terrible hardships they soon experienced: the rest were unwisely afraid of the Indians. For three days they waded through swamps formed by the late rains; then pushed their way through tangling underwood, until in an evil hour a body of Indians fell on them, and three forths of Sor Arce's men fled precipitately, abandoning him to a horrid fate. The savages proceeded to plunder the sumpter-mules, and murder the remaining Christians, seven of whom, including a missionary friar well known to the Tobas, speedily fell victims, being lanced, or shot through the heart with arrows. Luckily Arce, although stabbed with a lance, in the side, contrived with four others to escape to the banks of the Vermejo. Here his good genius protectected him, and tying together a few branches, these *proteges* of a miraculous Providence, after countless dangers, safely reached this city.

Since then no attempt has been made to realise this important undertaking, but Sor Arce now offers to try again, if provided with a proper military escort of 80 men.

Sor Arce represents the district of Oran as highly suitable for the culture of cotton, and labor plentiful, but the freight (12 reals per arrobe) is a serious obstacle, which, however he promises to reduce. I have, therefore, made him a present of the sack of seed which I intended for Goy. Lagraña, but the latter has more than he requires: I also gave him some pamphlets, and it is not unlikely this energetic man will bring down a few bales of cotton next year from Oran.

COTTON PLANTATION OF CASSACCIA.

Corrientes, Dec. 2, 1863.

Having arranged with Mr. Lix, yesterday, to make an excursion to the largest plantation in the neighborhood of the capital, which belongs to a wealthy

Italian resident, Sig Cassaccia. My friend procured me a horse, for there are no livery stables here, and at 5 p.m. the sun being yet hot, we mounted. Sor. Spalding, my fellow-passenger, agreed to accompany us as, did also deputy Escobar. Taking a north-easterly direction, we emerged from a miserable suburb of palm ranchos, on a kind of common which presented the appearance of a dried-up marsh. After this the ground became low and was flooded in several places, for the excessive heat of two days had not sufficed to absorb Sunday's heavy rain. A 'pantano' from which with difficulty we extracted our horses, mine almost lodging me in the slimy pool, barred our progress, and we took another route.

We overtook two men on horseback, who proved to be relics of Dr. Brougne's French colony. I saluted one of them, who told me he had been a glove-maker at Grenoble, and on the fall of royalty in 1848, became an exile. The other was a youth of 20; behind him sat a girl of 15, both being so bronzed I could hardly believe them to be French. These rude children of the forest had bare feet, fine eyes, and nicely chiselled features, such as must have inspired M. St. Pierre when he wrote his legend of Paul et Virginie, but then his heroine did not smoke these abominable cigars or talk Guarani.

The sun was getting low when we passed a ravine which sometimes forms an affluent to the Paranà, and as Sres. Escobar and Spalding resolved to return, for fear of being obliged to sleep on their saddle-cloth, we placed ourselves under the guidance of the colonists. My royalist acquaintance had evidently been making plentiful libations at the shrine of Bacchus, and as he insisted on renewing his devotions at a neighbouring house, we were constrained to diverge a little from the road. Here were three Bretagne women, in the same picturesque garb as they wear at home; and they prevailed on our guides to stop longer than we deemed prudent, so we struck out alone into the woods.

For some time we followed a winding path, until coming on an open space where the green sward was enamelled with a thousand flowers of the richest dyes. If I were a painter or had even a photographic lens, not even the fear of being benighted could have prevented my sketching the scene. Trees of every kind and form were charmingly intermingled: cactus, timbò, espinilla, and many others perhaps unknown to botanists. Here the path branched off in three directions, following one of which, we heard the barking of a dog, and approached a rude timber hut; at the door was seated a little girl who told us in French, that all her friends were out wood-cutting. Rather indecisive we pushed on, and happily overtook a peon going to Cassaccia's farm.

It was nigh eight o'clock when we arrived, and twilight enabled me to distinguish as wild a group of Indians, Creole, and Italian peons as would have done honor to Salvator Rosa's creations. One of them was singing 'decimas' to the sound of a guitar, and while Sig. Casaccia jun. was aiding two colored women to prepare supper we sat in the 'patio,' enjoying the fresh breeze. Stewed turkey, 'asado' washed down with 'carlon' wine, and sherry, gave me a favorable idea of life in these wilds; and after a varied conversation on cotton, tigers, Correntine belles, and rural sports, we retired to sleep in iron bedsteads furnished with mosquito curtains.

Before sunrise we were in the saddle, going in search of the cotton fields, which were situate on a gentle slope, close to the Paranà bank, and covered about 35 acres (11 cuadras). This

comparatively large plantation was commenced just two months ago, on the uniform scale of leaving 5 feet between the plants, every way. The number of cotton-hills as counted, last Monday, by order of Government appears as 71,000, but the owner calculates 80,000. I will pass over the five fields seriatim.

1st. Correntine seed, 16,000. This lot (perennial) looked healthy, and was about 6 inches over ground, not yet in flower. No plants had missed, but weeds abounded, & I recommended the owner to procure one of the American scarifiers mentioned in the pamphlets of the Association, and sold by Messrs Coffin of B. Ayres.

2nd. Egyptian seed. 18,000. This lot had twice utterly failed, the seed being supposed bad: the third sowing being of late, the plants were only a couple of inches high, and a few had missed. The recent ploughing had left the ground pretty clean, and the soil was a dark loam.

3rd. Correntine seed, 18,000. More advanced than the last, and the lines very regular: not many weeds.

4th, Egyptian seed, 14,000. None of these had shared the fate of No. 2, being about 4 inches over ground. The soil was being turned up with a plough to cover the roots, and cut down the weeds.

5th. New Orleans seed, 14,000. Very much like number 3, in condition but I advised Sig. Casaccia to prefer the perennial classes, such as native and Egyptian.

Sig. Cassaccia is not alarmed for want of hands in the picking season, as, besides his troupe of peons, he intends to hire some tame Indians of the Chaco. The yield ought to be close on 15,000 lbs or 35 bales clean cotton, worth over $5000.

The estancia is called La Costa, and comprises nearly two square leagues, of which a superficies of 500 acres is under cultivation, between cotton, maize, vines &c. When Sig. Casaccia purchased it, four years ago, for $6 000 it was quite a wild, with only an old house and orange grove. This industrious man is a native of Genoa, and has kept a bakery here for ten years: during this time he has amassed a fortune of 2,000 doubloons, yet such is the miserable state of our monetary market that he would find it difficult to raise a tenth of this sum by mortgage. He is building a fine two storey house, close to his 'atahona' (mill worked by horses), and at a short distance is the brick-kiln, capable of holding 40,000 bricks, which are sold at a doubloon per thousand. From here is obtained a delightful view of the Parana. A small paddle boat propelled by hand serves to convey the bricks to town. At 7 A. M. I bade adieu to the hospitable owner, and started in company with Mr. Lix, and a guide to the Lomas, a famous cotton district, but my journey was attended with great mishaps, as will be seen in the following letter.

LOST IN THE WOODS.

Corrientes, Dec. 3, 1863.

The scenery for about a league after leaving Sig. Casaccia's was diversified, and little broken by human habitations: meadows on which grazed some horned cattle and an occasional flock of fifty poor-looking sheep, trees of lofty stature such as timbó (useful for tables and indoor objects), and lagoons of much extent studded with flowery islands. Our destination was the house of the Justice of the Peace, Sor. Sabao, at which we arrived, about nine o'clock, but found this gentleman had gone to

Corrientes the day previous. Mr. Lix asked if a boy could be procured to show me the cotton plantations, but although two fellows were lazily lying in the shade, they declared it impossible, and surveyed us contemptuously. He then asked permission of Sabao's wife to leave me, until he would go into the city, and send Sabao to be my conductor. The old lady, with bare legs and bosom, at first demurred, but her daughter consented and handed me a chair, whereupon Mr. Lix, who was in a hurry to reach his office in the bank, took our guide and started for town.

Justice Sabao's dwelling was a wretched hut whose furniture consisted of a stretcher-bed, two tables, a long bench, a couple of chairs, and two large nails from which were suspended some articles of female finery, embroidered petticoats, &c. While I sat under the verandah smoking, the mother and daughter began to play at cards for a bottle of gin, and I was curious enough to look on: the game was called Vizcambra, but as they chatted in Guarani I could not pick it up. Another daughter was working 'crochet' at the window. The game over, a servant came to cut down a piece of the 'charque' or dried beef which hung from the roof, for breakfast. Presently however the matron said "a storm is coming on," and in alarm I ran for my horse, fearful that the roads might become impassable in case I was overtaken by bad weather. A lad coming up on horseback, I asked him if he were going to Corrientes, to which he replied "Yes, to-morrow morning." I offered him any money to accompany me, but he pointed to the dense black cloud and smiled. A terrible wind now arose, and people came running into the house, while the daughter begged of me not to risk my life in the desperate attempt to reach town, alone, and in the midst of a fearful storm. Shaking hands with her, like Excelsior, I mounted my horse and in less than a minute was galloping at full speed in the direction I had been told to follow. My horse seemed aware of the emergency and flew over the ground. Soon the track led into a dense thicket, where tigers or highwaymen might find convenient shelter, and further on, close to a lagoon, I saw a splendid edifice, the country house of ex-Governor Pampin. I had not ridden more than a mile when the rain came down in torrents, for the floodgates of Heaven were opened. An orange-grove and rancho soon offered an asylum, but I was already wet to the skin, being dressed in white clothes, and I was afraid to halt in this condition. Coming to a part of the road entirely covered with water, my horse grew timid and hesitated to proceed. Meantime the thunder and lightning were terrific, and nothing but the feeling that my life was in the hazard could have nerved me for the task. I pushed into the stream rapidly swelling with the rain, and safely reached the opposite side. Brushwood again shrouded the path, in which two horsemen could scarcely pass abreast, and I strained my eyes in vain for the sight of a human habitation. At times I had glimpses of a wild shrubbery all around, and the solitude made me quake with fear. To add to my difficulty the path made two turns, and by chance I took the left, plunging still deeper into the wood. I was just about to return on my steps, when I heard the creaking moan of a troop of carts a little ahead. A few yards more brought me to a well-beaten road, along which my tired horse trotted through successive pools, till the dome of the Rosario church burst upon my view, for the storm had now abated, and the shower ceased. Entering the

town I met Sor. Torrent, who pitied my plight, and offered me a servant to accompany me in future, as travelling alone was dangerous. My revolver, watch, and silk poncho were spoiled; and if I had been attacked I was perfectly defenceless. I treated the whole thing as a joke, although in reality it was as trying a scene as ever I could have wished for fireside tales of adventure.

The story was quickly in every body's mouth, and H. E. the Governor wrote me a letter informing me that he had ordered Sor Sabao to place himself under my orders, to visit the plantations, furnishing me moreover with a horse. I met the Governor in the evening at Sor Alvarez' house, along with Mr. Pemberton (who is married to a niece of Sor. Lagraña). He promised me an officer and servant, with horses, to accompany me to Bella Vista, Empedrado, San Roque &c.; on my return from Paraguay.

Sor Sabao called on me this morning, and begged of me not to take the trouble of visiting the plantations, as he was making up a return of the number of cotton-hills in the Lomas, which he roughly estimated at 800,000. I reminded him that to procure such returns I need not have come to Corrientes, but simply written to the Governor; but that I was resolved to inspect the principal plantations personally. He then proposed to start next week; I said that I must leave by Monday for Asuncion, and as the distance was not over 5 to 7 leagues I would even start at once. Hereupon he told me no horse could be had before two days, in spite of the Governor's promise, and at length to my strong remonstrances consented to start to-morrow at sunrise.

Meantime I complained to Mr. Billinghurst of these delays and he has kindly volunteered to take me to some plantations, this evening, in his carriage. The spirit of procrastination is ten times stronger here than in B. Ayres, and matters of importance are put off till quite forgotten. This is very annoying to a foreigner, who is not accustomed to spend one half the day sleeping, and the other in smoking bad cigars

I attended the opening of the Provincial Chamber on Tuesday, when the members were sworn in: there were but 3 spectators. Last night the Governor's message was read: it speaks favorably of cotton-planting, and says the present large plantations will be enormously increased next year, the Government giving seed and land gratis.

As I have yet a spare hour, I will give some more experiences of the people and country, both of which are so little known in Buenos Ayres or in Europe.

PROVINCE OF CORRIENTES.

Corrientes Dec. 3. 1863.

This province includes a superficies of 6,000 square leagues, which is about the extent of England, and has a population of 120 to 150 thousand souls, of whom 16,000 are in the district of the capital. It is in general level and well wooded and watered, no elevation reaching the height of 100 yards, while forests are frequently met in the interior and lining the banks of the principal rivers, Paraná, Uruguay, Sta Lucia, Corrientes, Batel, Miriñay, Empedrado and Aquapey. There are two lagoons of great extent, Ybera and Malaya, to the north of the province.

The climate is rather warm, the latitude being 27 to 33, longitude 55 to 60, and it may be said there is no winter, for, at rare intervals is perceived a slight frost. I have not seen a single

fire place, the inhabitants being ignorant of this 'sine qua non' of English comfort. Sickness is rare, except small pox, traces of which are visible on numerous persons I have met in the streets. The soil is most fertile, producing in abundance the necessaries and luxuries of life: I have, however, noted that the flour comes from Rosario, as there is a prevalent idea, that wheat does not prosper, and other cereals, therefore, take its place. Although the land is eminently suited for agriculture, and most of the country people have large tracts under cultivation, the pastures are still more notable: instead of the 'pasto fuerte' so objectionable to sheep farmers in Entre Rios and Banda Oriental, there is a fine, soft "gramilla," like artificial grass. The principal trees are the lapacho, ibapay and timbo, unknown elsewhere, the ñandubay and algarrobo so much used in B. Ayres for posts and rafters, the espinilla an excellent firewood, several classes of palms, the cactus, flowering aloe, orange, lime, citron, and gigantic cotton tree. The last often passes 10 feet, flourishing 20 or 30 years, and gives several pounds of first-rate cotton. Among the other products are maize, sugar-cane, aniseed, and a species of tobacco, which, grown in the district of Riaghuelo, equals or surpasses the best of Paraguay. The territory of Misiones, divided between Brasil, Paraguay, and Corrientes, produces the yerba from which we extract the grateful beverage 'maté.' Want of communication prevents the development of this industry, and the absence of protective duties leaves Paraguay a profitable monopoly. The Yerbales are at present common property, but it is proposed to hand them over to a company of Buenos Ayrean capitalists, who will make them much more productive: here however, arises the question of traditional right by those poor families who must either be expelled or converted into peons.

There is an abundant variety of Indian fruits, with Guarani names, difficult to remember or even to write down, but well known for their luscious taste, fragrance, and suitability as preserves. The sensitive plant which folds up its leaves at the least touch is a great curiosity, and in the woods is a profusion of wild creepers, of delicious odor, which are easily transplanted, but unfortunately little cared for.

Serpents, wild cats, tigers, lions, and alligators are very numerous, but more alarming in name than reality, as all flee on the approach of a man even unarmed. They commit great depredations in hen roosts, and the serpents are so fond of milk that they suck the cows, without doing them any injury. I have been credibly informed of a snake sucking a woman's breast, while she was asleep, and it was with difficulty snatched away before biting the unconscious female. Tiger hunting is a dangerous diversion: two men on foot armed severally with a gun and lance rouse the ferocious game; while the beast is preparing to spring, the rifleman aims at his head, missing which the risk is terrible, for no sooner has the bullet gone forth than the tiger leaps through the smoke at the assailants, and then the lancer must come to the rescue. A good skin, measuring from 6 to 8 feet is sometimes worth a doubloon. The tiger kills an ox quite easily by springing on his back, and tearing up the flesh of the neck: he can kill a man by a blow of his terrible claw. The Indian name is Yaguarête, but tigers seldom molest the high roads, or dwelling houses. The alligator is scarcely more formidable, being only a monstrous lizard, 6 to 10 feet long, and confining

his sanguinary taste to small animals which frequent the river side.

I have already said that most of the inhabitants are occupied in agriculture, cattle-rearing, cheese-making, saladeros and tanneries: there are also sugar distilleries which give excellent molasses, and yards for boat-building, where many of the small crafts of the Parana are constructed: I spoke, yesterday, with one of the carpenters, a very intelligent native, who had served 8 years in the French dockyards

This province is the 5th in size and 3rd in population, of the Argentine Republic, and probably the most favored by Nature: it is divided into the following 19 departments, Capital, Goya, Bella Vista, Saladas, San Roque, Maburucuya, Yguarete-Corra, San Miguel, Itati, Caacati, San Luis, Esquina, Mercedes, Curuzu Cuatia, Restauracion, La Cruz. San Cosme, Monte Caseros, and Empedrado, most of which have distinct municipalities.

The city of Corrientes was founded in 1858 by the brothers Alonzo and Juan de Vera, under the name "San Juan de Vera de las Siete Corrientes," for the Parana here runs in 7 rapid currents. The first settlement only counted 28 fighting men, who being surrounded by tribes of hostile Guaycurus, entrenched themselves behind a palisade and mud bastion, about half-a-mile from the 'baranca' under whose shelter their ship lay at anchor. The site is now marked by a graceful column called 'La Cruz del milagro:' tradition says that here stood a large wooden cross, outside the fort, before which the garrison prayed, during their heroic resistance to the besiegers. The Indians supposing it possessed of a charm carried it off and tried to burn it, but in vain: soon after attacking the stockade they were dispersed by a stroke of lightning, end the caciques, with 6,000 followers, immediately begged the waters of baptism. In 1856 some excavators here discovered remains of an old clay entrenchment, and an Indian arrow which served to confirm the tradition.

Corrientes ranks as a 4th city in the republic; it is distant about 270 leagues or 900 miles from B. Ayres, and one third of that distance from the capital of Paraguay. The Government is vested in a Governor, Chamber of 23 Deputies, Supreme Judge, Chief of Police, Justices of Peace, and minor authorities called Fiscals and Pedaneos. There are some foreign vice-consuls, but no British agent, since Mr. Billinghurst's resignation. The Government house, regularly called 'the college,' having formerly belonged to the Jesuits, is a splendid edifice: the court yard is planted with cotton from samples used this year in trying the various seeds.

The Correntines are well made, pleasing, intelligent, and kind to strangers. They are also peaceable, but the country was a prey to civil war, during their crusade against the tyrant Rosas. Three fourths of the people are colored, and usually speak Guarani, although also understanding Spanish: of the remainder a large portion is French or Italian. The young ladies are very witty and engaging, and marriageable at 13 years; some of them play the piano tolerably, and embroider skilfully but this is almost the amount of their education. No respectable females smoke, but the lady of the house usually invites you to a cigar, when visiting: whether owing to the heat of the weather or otherwise, I find mate very rare; The thermometer to-day has gone up to 106.

COTTON-FIELDS in the LOMAS.

Proposal for an English Cotton Colony.

Corrientes, Dec. 4th, 1863.

I drove out with Mr. Billinghurst in his carriage yesterday, to visit his quinta, not quite two leagues from town. The country-houses of the Meabe and Vivar families are on the road; they have no pretensions to show, or artistic merit, but the grouping of stately palms and orange groves surpasses any artificial beauty.

Mr. B.'s house is almost hidden among orange trees, and the quinta is kept in first rate order. It covers seven cuadras (25 acres), and cost the handsome sum of $7000 silver. When sold to the present owner, 1856, it contained 1000 orange trees, valued generally at four to five dollars each: these trees were then thirty years old, before which time they are scarcely reckoned full-grown. A plantation of 600 new trees, laid down the same year, is beginning to give signs of fruit. The date-palm on the other hand grows very rapidly: at the entrance is one planted by Mr. B., which is now forty feet high, and bears under its leafy tuft clusters of fruit of excellent taste.

In a small peach mount we found much ripe fruit, but it is smaller and even less savory than that of B. Ayres. Persian limes, a sweet kind of lemon, grow well, but a pear and an apple tree, imported from B. Ayres, were a complete failure. Bitter oranges of large size were still deceiving the appetite with their golden display. A plantation of 'mandioca' attracted my notice; two women in bare feet, seemingly unconscious of the neighbourhood of reptiles, were plucking up the farinaceous roots which much resemble parsnips, and form a large item in South American bills of fare. Mr. B. says it is the most profitable of all crops: he has also a piece of ground under maize and melons, and says the whole yields him 20 per cent. per annum interest on the value of the quinta.

The cotton field covers nearly three acres, comprising 17,000 plants, a yard asunder, on all sides. It is New Orleans seed and was laid down two months ago, an odd plant having missed. It is remarkable that one half the plantation was a foot over ground, the plants beginning to bud, and the rest hardly two inches. This was caused by the latter being in very bad soil. The whole was well weeded.

Mr. B. told me, he had laid down another lot which entirely perished, having been choked up with weeds at a time when he could not spare hands This is a patent proof of the necessity of "azadas a caballo," which do the work of 20 men. I told Mr. B. he had planted too closely, but he wished, he said, merely to experiment, and encourage his neighbours. His partner (Sor Lotero) has also planted some 8,000 cotton hills. In the same district we find ex governor Pampin with a small plantation, looking very well; and further on, near Riachuelo, Sig. Ghigliasso has about 40,000 plants in favorable condition, Sor Vivar was very unlucky: he planted 70,000, last October, of all which failed; he tried again, with hardly better success, and only a few plants have survived, the fault being, as he thinks, in the quality of the seed.

In our return we called at Sor Avalo's, where the Governor's aide-de-camp and horse were waiting in the patio. On the azotea we found H. E. along with Sres Avalos and Calvo. The conversation turned on traction engines, road making, and cotton: also on the proposals just received, from an English firm, to throw iron bridges across the

rarios 'Arroyos,' and light the capital vith gas. The Governor further expressed his readiness to give a subvention to a Diligence Co: as yet there is no regular public conveyance in the province.

Sor Avalos shewed me a beautiful lace shawl, quite equal to anything I had seen of Valenciennes, Brussels, or Limerick workmanship. The material was a very fine native cotton, and a set of tiny fingers had been two years busy in its production.

Last night the Governor's aide-de-camp waited on me, offering me one of His Excellency's horses, for a ride out to Colonel Solano's plantation, before day break. I consented to accompany him, but another torrent of rain disconcerted my plans. Since 2 o'clock this morning it has rained incessantly, and with difficulty I have contrived to pay a few visits in town. The state of the roads is now so awful that I fear I shall not have a chance of seeing any more cotton before my return from Paraguay: I leave for Asuncion on Monday. I have written a long article, in Spanish, for the local paper, giving the natives an idea of the utility of cotton-planting and some special hints suitable to the circumstances of time and place.

The Minister of Government having expressed a wish to see me, Mr. Lix conducted me to his residence, this evening, and I have returned with the conviction that Dr. Camelino is the main spring of all those progressive measures which reflect such credit on Sor Lagraña's government. He is a sharp, active, little man, of about 35 years, not displaying any of those indications of genius to be expected in the ruler of a great empire, but apparently earnest and honest enough to form an excellent local magistrate. He expresses his gladness at my mission, and high hopes for the realization of universal cotton planting. He asked me if the Cotton Supply Association would send out colonists in case the Government of Corrientes offered grants of land? I replied that it was very doubtful; the Association having been already much blamed for not providing thousands of the starving operatives with a free passage to the Colonies: that I would however transmit to Manchester any proposal on the subject, which H. E. might choose to make.

He then indicated the new town of Pueblo Lavalle, with 100 farm lots of 30 acres (9 cuadras) each, which the Government is ready to bestow in fee on 100 English families, who will plant cotton thereon for at least three years. The site could not be better, as I have described in a former letter, being on the banks of the Parana, about three leagues above Goya. The Government will guarantee their perfect security, and help the colonists to build a church and schools of their persuasion, aiding them in every manner within the means of a limited treasury, and engaging to tow their vessel from the mouth of the Plate to their destination. Timber abounds in the neighbourhood, for house-building; meat can readily be procured at the saladero, hard by, where the men could, moreover, earn something as peons, the women might lucratively occupy themselves cheese-making, and the natural port of Lavalle offers every facility for the imports and exports of the community.

I asked the Minister for an official return of the cotton newly planted this season, and this he has promised to procure me, by sending a circular, *ad hoc*, to the Justices of Peace. I mentioned that Dn. Camelino is unpopular; this is owing to a petty local jealousy, because he happens to be a native of Buenos Ayres, instead of

Corrientes. He is a decided friend to cotton, and will probably lend his influence in favour of Sr. Aguilar's new project, to vote $5000 dollars for the purchase of Egyptian seed next year.

A round of visits, amateur, theatricals &c.

The social circle is here so limited and amusements so scarce that the inhabitants endeavour to make up for the deficiency, by cherishing a high flow of spirits, and feeling as happy as possible. On Wednesday evening I visited the Vivar family, and the ladies kept up a running fire of rapid questions about my ideas of Corrientes, and the customs in B. Ayres. On Thursday I was introduced to the Mdlles. Labougle, nieces to the Governor; they are exceedingly handsome and lady-like, and of French extraction, as are also their cousins the Perichons. With these latter, M. Bonpland, the companion of Humboldt, lodged for many years, after his escape from Francia's dungeons in Paraguay: they tell me the great French botanist led a very humble life refusing to go back to his native country, when his beloved patroness was dead, for he would burst into tears at the very name of Josephine. He added immense acquisitions to the science of botany, among the varied productions of this tropical clime, and left precious MSS. in charge of Mme. Perichone who delivered them up to the French government, receiving a flattering acknowledgement in reply. Saturday evening I spent with Mr. Billinghurst, who has an elegantly furnished house: his lady is head of the "Sociedad de Beneficencia," and his daughter plays some opera-pieces very well on the piano.

A piano-teacher is much wanted here, and could easily earn 8 to 10 doubloons a month. The last, an Englishman, who was here, used occasionally to give operatic representions, but being attacked with the spleen, went away quite suddenly. There is a girls' school kept by Mrs. Morgan, but it is difficult to find a pupil for French or English, the Correntinos having no ambition to acquire foreign languages.

Last night I went to the theatre where a performance was given by amateurs, not so bad as might be expected. The edifice is like our Victoria theatre of B. Ayres, and capable of holding about 800 persons, but there was not half that number present. The ladies were dressed in low muslin bodices, having roses in their hair, and looking very well. I was introduced to most of them by Deputy Cabral and the editor of the progreso, going about from box to box until the function terminated at 1 A. M. The *repertoire* included some 'vaudevilles' translated from the French, a bolero dance, and some pieces of music played by the band of Colonel Lezica's 7th battalion.

On returning to my hotel I found Governor Lagraña's card, for he had kindly called to visit me, as I was to leave to-day for Asuncion. I had intended to make an excursion yesterday to San Luis, 7 leagues out, and the Governor's aide de-camp was to attend me, but another fearful rain storm fell on Saturday night, which again frustrated my plans.

I breakfasted yesterday with Dn. Carlos Lix, on preserved beef, for which he is getting out a patent, to send it to the English markets. His process mostly consists in steaming, which reduces the meat to a kind of cake resembling Virginia tobacco in appearance. The smell of it when cooked is strong but not offensive and the taste excellent, being fresh and juicy. He

has no fears whatever of its arriving in bad condition, and can offer it for sale in Liverpool at 3 pence per pound: one pound of this extract is equal to three of meat. Mr. Lix is the most go ahead man here: he is a correspondent of the Cotton and Acclimatization societies, being a strenuous supporter of Gossypium, and is the introducer of silk worms: he is now about to import a breed of those wonderful Chinese sheep, which have 6 lambs yearly.

Mr. Pemberton, a pupil of the renowned college of Stone yhurst, introduced me to several native gentlemen of polite manners who congratulated me on my efforts for cotton planting. Mr. P. is a candidate for municipal honors, being generally respected. On Sunday we took a stroll as far as the battery, a charming site north of the town, now occupied by the barracks. and drill-ground of the 7th batt. Formerly some guns were planted on the 'barranca,' but now it is the resort of peaceful citizens, and charming Correntine belles, when Colonel Lezica's band plays at the barrack gate. The musicians are barefooted and not very expert, awaiting the arrival of a band-master from B. Ayres. The battalion, 300 strong, is composed of young recruits, who are getting well disciplined under Colonel Lezica's orders. This officer shewed me an extraordinary saddle cloth, the hide of an animal found in the upper provinces, called 'perico ligero': the fur presents the appearance of ostrich feathers, but underneath is a kind of fine wool.

Alarming news arrived here lately from Goya, of a typhoid fever which was said to carry off a dozen persons daily: this was, however, a gross exaggeration, some 200 cases having appeared, but only 4 proving fatal.

The principal physician there is Dr. Newkirk, a Canadian gentleman, who passed his examination here last week: his average income, I am told, is $ 500 per month. It seems Goya is unfavorably situated near the low banks of Sta Lucia, and after rainy weather a miasma prevails, which induced the Government to advise the removal of the town, offering a subsidy for the purpose, but this was refused.

The Government message furnishes minute details respecting the condition of the several districts of the province. The postal service is in a miserable state, having scarcely half the requisite number of horses: this evil is felt the more as there is no public conveyance of any kind, and a traveller often finds it difficult to borrow horses. A weekly mail is despatched to Tucuman from Corrientes to the various departments. There are, generally, schools for both sexes, although not always in distinct edifices, and some villages even want churches, the divine ceremonies being performed in private houses. The police force seems inadequate only a dozen men for a large district, and the rural justices have to pay, out of their own pocket, for office-materials, receiving no salary. The sale of private lands during the last 10 months was as follows 71 lots comprising 99 square leagues were sold for a gross sum of 165,360 dols, about 1,600 dols. per league; this, however, is an increase of 240 dols per league on the prize realized in 1862. Property tax and police-fees constitute one third of the revenue and amount to 28,000 dols: income for 1863, 113,427 dols outlay 102,607 dols national subsidy 6,818 dols. I find 14,000 dols devoted to public instruction, 2000 postal service, 6,000 pensions, 4,000 public works, 15,000 police, 1000 church service, 9,000 justice, 8,000 customs officers, 5,000 printing office, 4,000 bank and 10,000

surplus. It is universally admitted that whatever the Governor's other qualities, may be the present is a strictly honest administration, the public rents being in a more flourishing condition than they have been for many years.

There is a Club house, called 25 de Mayo, but at present suffering a state of collapse, as the weather is too hot for either dancing or politics, and the saloons are deserted. Close to the beach is an old house with stone front and allegorical figures, bearing the date 1780, a vestige of the colonial regime: I remark that most of the two-story edifices have been put up within the last 10 years. The police office and Capitania are small private houses, as also the public schools: the bank is situated in the Government house. The post-office is a model of neatness and regularity, near the theatre, and the Administrator, Sor. Alvarez, deserves much praise for reforming this department, in which, I am happy to learn, Sor. Posadas, the post master-general, lent every assistance. Two photographers are at present driving a first-rate business, and albums are found in every house:. Lezica's battalion has lately been taken *en masse*.

Among our recent arrivals is a missionary from the Gran Chaco who has built a chapel among the Indians, and labors to convert them. As yet I have not heard that he is very successful, and indeed the wild, brutal aspect of these people would deter any but a very zealous apostle. They disfigure their faces in a shocking manner by tatooing the cheek, just under the eye, and with their long coarse hair, half naked bodies, uncouth gait, and maniac expression, they seem an inferior order of humanity. Nevertheless they are the best peons to be found, and perfectly harmless, given however to petty theft. Every morning they come over in their canoes, and are obliged to return to their woods, by sundown. Most people concur in the opinion that they might be turned to great use by mild treatment.

The Minister has just called to bid me good-bye. I promised my kind friends here to remain a few days on my return from Asuncion. The Paraguayan steamer is not expected until the 9th, but due to-day: I am thereby prevented making any excursion, lest I lose my passage. My friends here have provided me with a dozen letters of recommendation to influential parties in Paraguay.

THE RIVER PARAGUAY.

Corrientes to Villa Franca.

On board Rio Ayra,

Within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, the rivers Paranà and Paraguay have never been so low as at present: consequently most of the steam boats have lately run aground, and with difficulty got off, after longer or shorter delays. I had taken my passage per Ypora which was due at Corrientes on the 7th inst., and remained for six days a close prisoner in my hotel, hourly expecting by day and night to hear the whistle, this being the only notice given to Passengers. On Sunday evening, 13th inst., I ventured out to visit the Labougle family, and suddenly, about 10 o'clock the shrill signal was heard The night was very dark and with difficulty I made my way to the hotel and thence to the beach: the Ypora's lights shewed her to be some 400 yards from the shore. The agent's boat was already gone, and no other could be found at that hour. At length some obliging individuals of aquatic pursuits

produced a canoe, in which, even in day-time, no sage man would trust himself unless prepared for a dive. A strong current was, moreover, running, and my friends Alvarez and Garcia at once declined risking their lives to accompany me on board. My countryman, Mr. Pemberton, was more heroic, and we pushed off from the shore with a certain unpleasant feeling, for, each stroke of the oars made the canoe tremble, and I dreaded lest some one should cough violently or make the least movement, which must have precipitated us into the current.

At midnight we got under weigh and I began to reconnoitre the accommodations and passengers. The cabin was so confined that all hands adjourned to the quarter deck: we were nine in number. D. Candido Barreiro, a young man who had just finished a course of legal studies in London, returning to his native country. Sor Esquer, a Spanish merchant resident at Asuncion. Mr. Atherton from Buenos Ayres about to establish a house of business in Paraguay. Dr. Arze, Bolivian minister, with two attachés. A Brazilian horse-dealer from San Paolo en route for Cuyabá, and a Prussian jeweller.

We passed the Tres Bocas, or confluence of the Parana and Paraguay, before dawn, and were unable to appreciate the famed beauties of this locality; but, sunrise revealed to us a lovely picture of river scenery far superior to anything yet seen, and every bend of the stream added a fresh charm to the perspective. At 6 o'clock we passed a military picket on the right bank: these ranchos garrisoned by a dozen soldiers, are found at regular distances, generally surrounded by maize plantations and furnished with a canoe, keeping a strict look-out against the Chaco Indians, and communicating daily one with another,

About 8 o'clock we sighted the church-towers of Humaita, and a succession of formidable batteries frowned on us, as we passed under their range: they are placed on a slight eminence, and seem guns of large calibre. First, four batteries *a la barbette*, covered with straw sheds which can be removed at a moments notice: then, a long casemate mounting 16 guns, with bomb-proof roof, and finally two more *barbette* batteries, making up a total of 78 guns. As the canal runs close to the bank, any vessel, unless iron-plated, attemping to force a passage must be sunk by the raking and concentrated fire of this fortification, which is the key to Paraguay and the upper rivers.

The captain of the port conveyed us ashore, and shewed us three enormous tigers belonging to the President, each of which ate a calf for its breakfast. We proceeded to view the encampment; a *chef d'oeuvre*, rather more resembling Aldershott or the Curragh than anything South American. Here are quarters for 12,000 troops. though the usual garrison does not exceed half that number. The neatness, order, and industry here observable make a happy impression on the visitor. The long lines of cavalry, infantry, and artillery barraeks, the officers' quarters, curate's house, and President head quarters are solid brick edifices, which cover an immense extent of ground, with the church in the centre, and the women's encampment on the rear. Sentinels are met at every corner and the troops relieve each other at work, building sheds, fetching wood &c. The soldiers are fine-looking men, tall, athletic, and well disciplined, wearing red coats and cloth caps, but mostly barefooted. The church is a splendid edifice with three towers the middle one being 120 or 150 feet high: the interior is neat, and a colonnade runs around the

exterior; there are four large bells, hung from a wooden scaffolding, one bearing the inscription "Sancte Carole, ora pro nobis" The church is dedicated to St. Charles: the late President's name was Carlos Antonio. In 1854 this site was a thick jungle infested with tigers and the late ruler set about converting it into its present important condition.

Our breakfast on board the Ypora was miserable: beans, oysters, sausages &c; there was no fresh meat for us although the President's tigers did not come short of their allowance. We were transhipped to the Rio Appa, a small steamer, not much bigger than a whale boat, which drew only 40 inches of water. Having an accession of three passengers, two ladies and an officer, we were closely packed, the cabin having seven berths, and one of the fair passengers appropriating mine. An awning was put up on deck, but the sparks from our furnaces (for we burned wood), soon made it a complete sieve, and three men, with wet cloths, were employed in extinguishing them. The heat was intolerable, and the prospect of two days' navigation in this manner, little less than a positive torture..

In the afternoon we passed the mouth of Rio Vermejo, which is about 300 yards wide, and bordered by a dense foliage; we saw two Indians fishing with nets, the first indigenous population of the Gran Chaco yet met with. After passing a number of picquets we arrived, 3 p. m. at Villa Pilar, where our fair friends left us. The town stands a mile inland, presenting a good appearance, but the great heat deterred me from landing. It is the chief town of a district comprising 160,000 inhabitants, and was the commercial emporium of the republic, when Asuncion was closed to all strangers, but has now lost much of its importance. It is still the third city of the republic, with a population of 8 to 10 thousand souls, and a church dedicated to the Virgin of Pilar.

In another hour we were again steaming up the river, and soon came abreast of the Tibiquari, a large stream which rises in the Yerbales or *mâte* fields of Misiones. and after a course of 400 miles falls into the Paraguay at this place. By sunset we reached Villa Franca, a village whose district only counts 10 thousand inhabitants: without dropping anchor we threw the mail bags into a small boat manned by soldiers. The evening was cool and delightful, and we retired to rest, on deck, with anticipations of a pleasant day, the morrow, when—hallo! we're aground, and as the night is dark, there is no hope of getting off till daybreak if then.

THE RIVER PARAGUAY,

Villa Franca to Asuncion.

in front of Asuncion
Dec. 16th 1863.

On yesterday morning we were lucky enough to get afloat, and continued our course without interruption until reaching Villa Oliva, where two Italian vessels lay weather bound in voyage for B. Ayres. The place is a mere hamlet, the population of the district not exceeding 8,000 souls. It has, however, a church called 'el Rosario,' and public schools, for, religion and instruction are better attended to here than in most countries, and it is almost impossible to find a Paraguayan who cannot read and write, and explain the Christian Doctrine. Here we stopped to take in fresh beef and fire wood: an ox was dragged down to the river side, and quickly despatched. Within a few minutes the hide was taken off

and the dissected quarters conveyed on board, while the garrison supplied us with fuel. A number of women scantily dressed divided the remnants of beef abandoned by our butchers, and children of both sexes bathed and swam about near the bank, perfectly naked. I have already remarked that the complexion of the natives is seldom dark, and sometimes as fair as among the northern nations of Europe. In general they are so sun burnt as to approach an olive color, but not more so than if descended from white blood: negroes and mulattoes are very rare.

We spent the evening, watching the shoals of alligators on either bank: sometimes as many as a dozen were basking together in the sun, and I observed a few measuring seven or eight feet in length. They lie motionless, like a log of wood, with their jaws extended shewing two alarming rows of teeth. The body is black and scaly like a tortoise, with four short fin-like legs, and they glide into the water with great ease. Carpinchos or sea hogs may be seen in close proximity apparrently on good terms with the "Yacares," for this S. American crocodile confines his taste to fish, although, in the marshes of the interior, a red species has been known to devour children.

Our passengers having little else to do begin to talk about their several affairs. The horse dealer narrates his journey from San Pablo to Cuyaba, 250 leagues, most of the way being through Indian territory: He usually takes 500 horses worth $10 each; and with the aid of 20 peons drives them through rivers, plains, and forests to Cuyaba, where they fetch $ 100 each. The journey occupies four months, during which one fourth of the animals perish: the peon's wages is a doubloon per month. The profit however would be much greater if he could get permission from Pres. Lopez to convey horses over land from Corrientes, a he intends to solicit, a Paraguayan having cleared 50,000 dol. in this manner.

Sor Barreira has been six years absent from home, during which time he has become quite an Englishman, full of British ideas, and well conversant with our forensic literature: he intends returning to England after a few months.

Dr. Arze has great hopes for the navigation of the Pilcomayo, which would make Asuncion the entrepot of Bolivian products. The Yungas coffee is really excellent, and from what a have tasted, I fancy it equal to the best Mocha. The cigars are also very good and the present mission promises important results for Bolivia, and the mercantile world. The minister informs me that the indigenous cotton of his country is similar to that of Corrientes, and the industry has fallen away since the War of Independence. The cost of freight, meantime, banishes the hope of developing Cotton in that remote country.

A thick fog settled down this morning, when we approached Villeta, and we came to anchor, the pass being very bad. The military captain went ashore resolved to finish his journey (7 leagues) on horseback. Throwing out two anchors we contrived to drag the vessel for several yards, over the bank, and soon reached deep water. The scenery became more diversified, and resembled the views I have seen of the lakes in Cumberland, except that at times a stately palm stood forth as an emblem of the tropics.

The peak of Lambaré is enchanting, with its cone-like elevation clad in luxuriant foliage, raising its lofty form to the clouds. After the flat landscapes of B. Ayres, it is refreshing to see a mountain, and Lambaré is a welcome sight

to the traveller. The adjacent village is a suburb to the capital, remarkable for its church and cemetery.

On the left bank we see the mouth of the Pilcomayo, a mighty tributary over 1600 miles long, which rises near the city of Chuquisaca, traverses an immense part of Bolivia, and finally passes through the Chaco.

Presently a couple of *barbette* bateries announce our proximity to the capital, and the cavalry barracks are already discernible. A bend in the river brings us at once in full view of Asuncion, seated on a hill side sloping down to the bank. On the right is the arsenal, with its red roofs and tall chimneys, and some workmen are actively employed constructing the floating dock. In front is the new Custom house, a magnificent structure of one story, forming a large quadrangle and surrounded by a fine Moorish colonnade. The house of the President's youngest brother, two stories, commands attention, and then the eye wanders over a diversity of white walls and tile-roofs irregularly grouped, amid which the church towers, barracks, and railway station stand prominent, and the view is bounded by a zone of country houses terminating, on the extreme left with the Trinidad church, where the late President is interred. The Chaco is here open and presents handsome meadows, the river is not wide, but the port good, and a number of sailing vessels and steamers are anchored close to land.

A gangway is thrown on shore and the passengers are making their way to the Capitania, so that I must postpone my impressions of the Paraguayan metropolis for the next letter.

First Impressions of Asuncion.

Hotel de France,
Asuncion, Dec. 29th, 1863.

It was about noon when I landed *in limine* to pay my respects to the Capitania. The heat was awful, yet several women were washing linen on the beach, without any protection from the sun. I could not find a porter and was obliged to carry my travelling bag some distance to the depot for examination. Neither at Marseilles nor elsewhere have I seen so strict a search: the official turned up shirt-collars and examined newspaper wrappers for boots, as if impregnated with treason. It seems the great danger is Spanish publications, for I understand the 'Tribuna' is not allowed circulation until officially read, and a 'Correo de Ultramar' was taken from one of the passengers to be sent to the censor. I gave up a number of sealed letters, not wishing to run the risk of smuggling, and was informed that before 24 hours every new comer must present himself at the Policia. The officer also told me I must take my doubloons to the Treasury to be weighed, but as my purse was not heavy I disregarded the intimation.

Trudging through a sandy soil, I set out for the Club and found the street deserted, it being the hour for siesta. I had walked about a mile, carrying my carpet-bag, under a scorching sun, for the side-path afforded no shade, when I met a man who took me for the Bolivian minister, and insisted on conducting me to his house. I stoutly refused, although ready to faint from exhaustion, and after a few minutes arrived at the Club. Here I found every room occupied, and had to start again in quest of an hostelry.

After a refreshing sleep, I rose at 4 p.m., and went to visit the arsenal, distant about half a league. It is difficult to say whether this useful institution reflects more credit on the progressive Government of Paraguay or on the scientific chief, Mr. Whytehead, and his able assistants.

I met a troop of soldiers carrying timber and other materials for building, one of whom directed my steps through the labyrinth of factories, forges, and new edifices which surround the principal workshop. I entered one place, apparently a saw-mill, where some Englishmen were at work, and then passed through a spacious building nearly finished, where the new forges are to be placed. At length I met the manager, Mr. Marshall, who invited me to wait until Mr. Whytehead should arrive. Meantime the foreman, Mr. Grant, undertook to show me the premises. I know nothing of mechanical skill: suffice it to say that I saw the implements for constructing steamers, casting cannon; making stoves, agricultural instruments, bells, engines, &c. All kinds of wood and iron work are here accomplished: a portable engine turns a number of bands, each working some intricate piece of machinery. There are three large furnaces, and a steam-hammer, and the noise reminds one of home, for Buenos Ayres cannot boast such a school of industry. I saw metal pillars for a portico being turned out, and gun-carriages in construction, besides a locomotive under repair. This arsenal has built six of the eleven steamers of the republic which ply upon our rivers, the last being the Ygurey, and a seventh is now in construction. The floating dock is progressing, and when finished will be a great additional advantage. There are over 150 hands employed in the arsenal, of whom the majority are natives, about 30 being Englishmen, and a few French, Italians, and Germans. The greatest order prevails throughout. The native who stabbed Messrs. Whytehead and Grant has been recently shot. It is not true that the natives receive no pay: even boys earn 18 pence per day, and men in proportion. When the new offices are completed, this will be a grand arsenal, and the fire-eaters of Buenos Ayres who may be suffered to pass Humaitá can learn an instructive lesson in this "retrograde" country.

On Thursday I rode out with Dr. Skinner to Mr. Whytehead's charming country house, situated on an eminence above the city. The view is one of the most delightful that can be imagined. As an instance of the excessive heat I may state that the thermometer at 5 p. m. marked 94 in the shade, having fallen three degrees since 3 p.m. This house is one of the oldest in Asuncion, being shewn in maps of the last century: on one of the beams is engraved "XX Octubre 1633." From here we descended to the residence of Messrs. Burrell and Valpy, chief engineers of the railway, and after a short visit, proceeded to a native house, where my companion introduced me as the new Irish minister. The ladies enquired particularly after M. Lefebre de Becour and other diplomatists, all of whom I assured them were in excellent health.

The hour for morning calls begins at 6 o'clock, and early on Friday I presented several letters of introduction. Don Carlos Saguier promised to present me to the President, but his Excellency has been unwell, and sent me word that he would be happy to see me after Monday (21st). From 11 till 5 all the houses are closed, and nothing is done. In the evening I went to visit Mme. Gonzalez and her attractive daughters (nieces to the Finance minister), and if I judge the fair sex by this specimen the Porteñas have reason to be jealous of their Paraguayan sisters.

Don Candido Barreira conducted me on Saturday to visit the Minister of F. Affairs, Sor. Berjes, who entered warmly into my views on cotton-planting, and promised me an attendant who would shew me some plantations. He shewed

me a letter from Messrs. Blyth (agents in England) conveying an offer, from a Manchester house, of 2½ pence per lb. for any amount of native cotton. He added that the official report sent me by the editor of the 'Semanario,' shewing 1,50 ;,0:0 'lines' of cotton-plants, did not include what was sown after Sept 30:h; and I have dates to suppose that the plantation this year exceeds *one hundred and fifty million* of hills.

This morning I went by first train to Itaugua, in company with Mr. Valpy. If I have time before the mail goes, I will give a description of this charming trip and of the cotton fields I saw there

THE PARAGUAYAN METROPOLIS.

Asuncion Dec. 22nd 1863.

On the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin (Aug. 15th) 1536 this city was founded by a Spanish officer, named Ayolas, with 300 men. Since that time the world has undergone many changes, but the capital of this remote country is still a village in point of size and importance, and is probably the most antique looking place in S. America. Du Graty estimates the population at 48,000, but even including the suburbs it cannot amount to one half that figure. The houses stretch out in uneven lines from the coast, covering the sides and acclivities of two hills, and forming blocks of 80 yards square, with streets 15 yards wide. There are scarcely any 'azoteas' tile roofs being general and sometimes corridors in front of the houses which are usually one story. Side paths are coming into fashion, but as yet very irregular, and the streets are so many sand pits, into which the pedestrian sinks above his ankles at every step, while riding on horseback is almost as tiresome.

The shops are miserable stores, resembling those of the camp towns of B. Ayres, only rather worse, the establishment of a French barber and the cloth depot 'of the golden scissors' being the most respectable. For some days I have in vain sought a cigar shop, and the famous jeweller and mate worker is still unknown to me. I have seen watches in one window, and looking glasses in another, also boots and shoes in a retired locality, and a sprinkling of groceries and haberdasheries near the plaza—but that's all. There are two or three wholesale merchants besides the Government, which does a large business in the staple products. On the whole I should class Asuncion as a medium between Corrientes and Rosario.

Meanwhile, in public buildings, this city is probably richer than any provincial town of the neighbouring republics; I have not the dates of their construction, but they are apparently, of the last century, mementos of the Jesuit times. The Government house, a handsome two story edifice, with a Moorish corridor of ten arches, stands on the north east side of the Plaza de Gobierno, crowning a lofty bluff, from which is obtained a good view of the Gran Chaco. On the left is the Cathedral, on the right the infantry barracks, and in front the police office and palace of the late president; each forms a separate block.

The churches of San Roque and Encarnacion are small and simple, possessing little of interest The Congress hall is situated close to the police office, and seldom called into requisition; the Chambers only being assembled on extraordinary occasions, such as the President's demise, and at intervals of several years. The post office consists of a small parlor in a private house; showing what little correspondence is

carried on with the exterior world. There are several barracks rivalling those of European capitals in method and extent: that of San Francisco is the principal, capable of holding 2,000 men.

The plazas are much larger than in Buenos Ayres, and three in number: the market place, or chief square, presents a most picturesque aspect at sunrise, several hundreds of women dressed in white being assembled to dispose of their different wares: fruit, cigars, cakes, &c. The President's palace, on the west side, is an irregular structure; a guard is constantly mounted. The other sides of the market are formed of arcades in which are the principal shops: and at the south end we find a crowd of bullock-carts, and a large number of donkeys. The Plaza de Gobierno, above-mentioned, serves as a reviewing ground for the garrison. The open space at the railway terminus, adjoining the San Francisco barrack, is the scene of capital executions: two posts at the end of a dead-wall mark the site of the "banquillo." About a month ago a soldier was shot for the murder of a woman: the hour for execution is daybreak.

The grand feature, however, in Asuncion, which strikes the visitor with admiration, is the multiplicity of new enterprises, not seen elsewhere in S. America. They belong less to the actual city than to the splendid metropolis which is about to spring up under the wise, progressive, and pacific administration of General Lopez. I will therefore set them down in a distinct category. Besides the railway to Ituguà (8 leagues) there are several tramways intersecting the city, used for conveying materials to the various colossal structures in course of erection. The Custom-house, just finished, with its triple row of arches would be an ornament to any city of the new or old world. The Theatre, although advancing slowly, and but half built, will one day attract notice, being on the model of La Scala, and calculated to hold 1000 spectators. The railway terminus reminds one of Euston-square, covering a spacious quadrangle, with a colonnade of 100 yards in front, surmounted by a clock tower, the highest object in the city.

I have already spoken of the arsenal, but here I must again mention the patent slip and dry dock, a gigantic work which I minutely inspected, last Wednesday, in company with the Bolivian minister. It is being laid down close to the arsenal, and will be concluded probably within a year: there are over 300 men at work, mostly soldiers. A dozen brick walls about four feet high stand parallel at equal distances: the edges are faced with red and white stone alternately, the former being harder than granite, and the latter resembling Portland stone in appearance. The soldiers work in gangs under various officers, and the English foreman directs all. A number of native boys serve as stone-cutters, and the work goes on quickly, for the present low state of the river greatly facilitates the labors of foundation. The immense utility of these works will be evident long before Buenos Ayreans can forget their absurd contempt for Paraguay: the Minister Berjes remarked to me the other day, that but for the generosity of his cabinet towards Lavarello, the Argentine expedition could never have ascended the Vermejo: the steamer Gran Chaco was repaired gratis in the arsenal. The unrivalled progress notable at Asuncion is the more surprising as there may be said to be no foreign residents: all my countrymen, except two, are servants of the Government, and of the exceptions, one

is married to a native, so that a British consul is hardly wanted, although I learn Mr. Thornton is sending one. The French population throughout the republic hardly counts 100: Italian sailors are seen at intervals, and a few rare specimens of the Spanish, German and Brazilian nationalities make up the collection of human zoology in a country, where 20 years ago no foreigner was allowed to enter. There is one Irishman, a lieutenant in the navy. Francia's policy engendered a bitter hate towards foreigners, but the actual President is fully alive to the benefits of Immigration, and before long I expect numbers of Europeans will be attracted hither, especially by the prospects of Cotton. If Francia could arise from his tomb he would be scandalised to find the country profaned by foreigners, but still more by the respect they necessarily command through the improvements which Government is working out by their means.

Hotel accommodation is very limited and calls for reform. The Club is a fine house, 80 yards front by 40 deep, with lofty and spacious apartments, a good cuisine, middling cellar, billiard room, salle a manger and first-rate ball room. Visitors usually stop here: the charge is 12 silver reals per day. The reading room is a deception, for the table is covered with pictures of Parisian fashions for gentlemen's summer clothing, and the Correo de Ultramar, the latter and the native weekly 'Semanario' being the only papers taken. I saw some numbers of the 'Nacion Argentina' dated August 1863, and 16 books, including Du Graty's Paraguay. There are two card tables in the corner, and these are the only attractions which induce eight or nine social natives to congregate of an evening, the foreigners rarely assisting at such intellectual 'soirées.' The hotel de Francia is a fifth-rate inn, with exorbitant charges for small rooms: board is cheap and pretty good.

House-rent is low, varying from one to three doubloons per month. Lodging is also cheap, and a pair of good rooms seldom costs more than six or seven silver dollars. Board at either of the hotels costs a doubloon per month. Beds are very scarce, almost all the inhabitants sleeping in hammocks, for which purpose every room is furnished with a pair of rings built in the wall. The hours for repose are from midnight to sunrise, and from noon to 4 p.m. Provisions are cheap and abundant, mandioca and fruit always entering into the bill of fare. Good wine is almost unknown, but the native liquors are unrivalled, and the river water both palatable and salubrious. Breakfast takes place a little before noon and is the great event of the day. Dinner, or if you like to call it supper, begins at 7 and usually occupies two hours. The absence of news or decent cigars makes life still more disagreeable than the climate induces, and no one ever talks politics, for popular education has happily set a ban on this curse of S. American republics.

I should be very sorry to choose Asuncion for my place of residence, but I am firmly convinced it is the most go-ahead city on the continent, and the Government of President Lopez not only the best adapted for the people of Paraguay, but a model, moreover, of order, and progress, from which the Argentine, Oriental, Bolivian, Chilian, Peruvian, Venezuelan, Columbian and other S. American administrations might advantageously borrow an idea.

CHRISTMAS IN PARAGUAY.

Asuncion, Dec. 28, 1863.

The coincidence of the anniversary of Paraguayan independence falling on the festival of the Nativity of our Lord, makes Christmas doubly celebrated at Asuncion, and foreigners not intimidated by the excessive heat should make a point to visit the capital at this season The festivities usual in all Catholic countries are held with great pomp, and the profane diversions of civic holidays even eclipse the former.

On Christmas eve a truce was declared to business, and the fireworks and masqueraders were a prelude to the grand bull-fight of the afternoon. About an hour before sunset I entered one of the boxes set apart for foreign visitors at the bull ring, which was erected in the plain below the Government house. Five hundred spectators of the lower classes lined the theatre and two mounted 'picadors', with two 'matadors,' stood in the ring. The bull was dragged in from a side enclosure, but immediately sought escape from his mounted tormenters. When, however, the 'matadors' advanced afoot, the animal turned on them and showed fight. After receiving repeated stabs in the back of the neck, which caused the blood to pour down profusely, the poor animal moaned piteously, and refused to continue the combat. He was therefore withdrawn, and another taken out to undergo exactly the same fate. Six were introduced in succession, not one of which was killed, although sometimes the bull ran round the ring with the knife sticking in his neck, and the 'matadors' displayed considerable agility in bounding suddenly away from the horns of the infuriated animal. The spectacle was sickening, and I proceeded to the triumphal arch, where the 'sortija' was attracting numbers of officers on horseback. There were also races, for 250 yards distance; it being remarkable that only two horses ran each time, and they were separated by a wooden paling. Considerable betting was made, but the horses seemed, like all the rest, of a very inferior breed. None of the high officials, and very few respectable persons assisted, but numbers of the country people had flocked in from various quarters.

Some young ladies invited me to accompany them, in the evening, to visit the Christmas cribs erected in private houses. I saw three or four tastefully got up, but there was nothing different from those I have seen in other countries. There was also one in each church: through some neglect that of San Roque took fire, and several ornaments were consumed. Midnight Mass was sung at the Cathedral, by the coadjutor bishop, but I did not attend.

Christmas morning was saluted with a salvo of 100 guns, and before six o'clock the whole city was astir. After Mass and Te Deum at the Cathedral, which were not attended by the President or any civil dignitaries, there was a levèe at the Palace. Bands were playing in the plaza, and masqueraders dancing, when the reception began. First came the two bishops and clerical corporation, numbering about twenty. Then a crowd of colonels and minor officers, including Doctors Stuart, Barton, and Skinner, in captain's uniform, and Lieutenant Masterman of the hospital pharmaceutical department: this batch was headed by the veteran Robles, who had received the epaulets of Brigadier-General, only the day previous. The various rural authorities then advanced to pay their 'devoirs,' after whom came the foreigners. Mr. Valpy, railway engineer, and I, were the only representatives of the United Kingdom: an old Spaniard was the

spokesman, but Hamlet would have thought his elocution faulty. The President, who was standing in the middle of the hall, surrounded by his ministers *en grande tenue*, made a very polite reply, and bowed us out. Next came a group of natives, which closed the list. It was raining heavily, and the court uniforms suffered sadly. The spacious tent in the plaza was now finished, but all idea of a ball vanished in such weather.

Madame Lynch's dinner-party was the great event of the evening, for our countrywoman's hospitality is only equalled by her taste in getting up a genuine Christmas celebration. Before all the company had assembled I conversed with the coadjutor-bishop in the splendidly-furnished ante chamber, and looked over the well chosen library of English, French, and Spanish works

Madame Lynch did the honors of hostess with due grace. On her right sat the coadjutor bishop (Palacios), on her left, General Robles. The croupier was Colonel Barrios, brother-in-law to the President. Covers were laid for 36, most of the guests being English, including all the physicians and civil engineers. The dinner was superb, and two dozen dishes, 'entrées,' &c., were wound up by a real English plum-pudding, such as is rarely seen on this side of the Atlantic. Sauterne, madeira, sherry, champagne flowed in bumpers. Dr. Stuart proposed Madame Lynch's health; Colonel Barrios, the President's, which were drunk with all honor. At ten o'clock a military band began to play English, Scotch, and Irish tunes, under the windows, and we retired from the banquet saloon to the ball-room. General Robles and the President's sister, with Colonel Barrios and Madame Lynch, opened the ball. A crowd of persons assembled outside, when the company, by way of respite, listened to some English ballads and Irish melodies, sung by a lady and gentleman of those present. The bishop had retired as soon as the dancing commenced, but the party did not break up till 3 a.m., when the compliments of Christmas were exchanged, and I came home to my hotel with the impression that it was the pleasantest Christmas I ever passed, during twelve years of exile, and that Madame Lynch contributes, in a notable manner; to make the festivities of the season, at Asuncion, doubly interesting.

The bull-fights, horse-racing, and other popular recreations, lasted three days, during which the lower orders diverted themselves with unusual gusto; yet I did not hear of a single case of disorder. The festivals may be said to have concluded with the 'gomba,' or nigger dance, in the bull-ring, on the night of the 27th.

A TRIP BY RAIL TO ITAUGUA.

Asuncion, Dec. 29, 1863.

The pleasantest excursion from Asuncion is, without doubt, by rail to Itauguá. The regular trains run only on Sunday and in the afternoon of Thursday. I left by the 6 a.m. train, on the 27th, in company with Mr. Valpy, C.E. There were not many passengers, most being of the 1st or 3rd class. The distance to Itauguà is 25 miles, the fare in 1st class is equivalent to three shillings. The carriages are not very tasteful, nor is there a smoking saloon, but then no one objects to the smell of the Paraguayan weed.

Passing some workshops of the line we are at once in the country, and have a fine panoramic vista of the environs. There are some neat cottages with gardens; yonder the tyrant Francia spent

many years of his life in the study of men as well as books. The 'azotea' with watch tower belongs to Sr. Berjes, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The line now crosses the Campo Grande. Among our passengers are two cock-fighters, whose birds keep crowing the whole way: they are going to Trinidad, famous for its cock-pits. The Trinidad church is handsome, and contains the bones of the last President, whose favorite residence stands on a slight elevation further on, and near the latter is the new summer palace of his widow This district is small, and included in the suburbs of Asuncion: mandioca is largely cultivated, and the official report shows 200,000 cotton-hills.

The rail now follows a slight incline as far as Luque, passing a number of orange groves and straw huts, and crossing the high-road to Villa Rica. By the wayside I observe a cross in the midst of four orange trees: further on is another of these mausolea, nicely fenced in and surrounded with flowers. There is a fine plantation of palms, which brings us to Luque, one of the best towns in the camp, and distant about four leagues from Asuncion. Maize forms the chief industry: cotton has been extensively planted, but owing to the want of June returns, the exact quantity cannot be arrived at; in the second quarter nearly a million hills were laid down. At each railway station a military band plays, on the arrival of the train; the station-masters are all lieutenants, the conductor a captain, in full uniform.

On leaving Luque the scenery becomes more picturesque: for a time we are embedded in thick groves, and the line makes several sharp curves to follow the course of the valley, for the ground on the left is very high, and interspersed with frequent ranchos and orange groves, till we come to a place intersected by a stream, on the banks of which is erected a mill in English style. The Cordillera becomes visible, with its sides clad to the very summit in luxuriant foliage. And soon the silvery lake of Taipacuá, gleaming through the orange groves, indicates the proximity of Areguà The station is a fine two-story house, the upper part whereof is a ball-room much resorted to in winter. There are medicinal baths on the lake, with bathing-houses, and every convenience.

The rail hence to Itauguá almost skirts the lake, offering a delightful *coup d'œil*. At length the majestic 'cerro' of Itauguá announces the termination of our journey. The station here is very handsome, gothic style, and from the upper windows a beautiful view is obtained, of the lake on one side and the hills on the other.

This railway was commenced in 1859, and the works (under the direction of Messrs. Burrell and Valpy, with Mr. Thompson as assistant-engineer), are already pushed as far as Paraguari and the Cordillera. Two new sections will be opened within six months, bringing the line to Pirayù; over 1400 soldiers are engaged as navvies. Two or three years will be required to complete the line to Villa Rica (100 miles), which is the heart of the interior.

Mr. Valpy conducted me to the house of D. Vicente Casco, in the neighbourhood, where we passed the time pleasantly, conversing with his lady-like but bare-footed daughters, and sipping *maté*. This man had a cotton field of 20,000 plants, strong and clean, and intends next year to lay down half a million.

We returned to town by the 11 a.m. train: the thermometer stood at 97 in the shade.

THREE DAYS IN THE INTERIOR OF PARAGUAY.

ASUNCION TO PIRAYU.

Itauguà, Jan 4, 1864.

The Government having placed at my disposal a guide and relays of horses to make a tour through the districts of Itauguá, Pirayù, Paraguarì, Yaguaron and Itá. I started from Asuncion on Thursday, 31st December, by train. The Bolivian minister, Dr. Arce, who had promised to join me and found himself unable to absent himself for some days from Asuncion, came as far as Itauguà, in part fulfilment of his engagement. We had but few passengers, the weather being excessively hot, and after a pleasant ride of 90 minutes, arrived at the last station. Here I enquired for the chief of the district, and learning he was at the village of Itauguà, four miles distant, I despatched a messenger to inform him of my arrival. The thermometer stood at 97 in the shade, notwithstanding which gangs of men were working on the railway, carrying wood and stone. There were several indications of a coming storm, and forked lightning burst now and then from a dark cloud which overhung the Cordillera of Taipacuà.

At half past five Sr. Moreno appeared with an escort of four men, and bringing a saddled horse for me. The chief received me very cordially, The road from the station towards Itauguà at first crossed an open plain. Leaving the Cerro de Itauguá on our right, we soon reached the President's country-house, beautifully situated at the foot of a wooded hill, with the lake of Taipacuá in front view, and orange plantations on either side. We talked about Paraguay and Buenos Ayres, while ascending the slope, which brought us into a thicket of brushwood. and after half an hour's ride emerged upon a group of cotton and tobacco plantations. Entering one of these copueras, called in Guarani 'copue,' I had occasion to admire the care and industry of the natives. The cotton-field comprised about 300 'lineas,' or 20,000 hills, most of the plants being about 10 inches over ground, and looking very healthy. Not a weed was to be seen, and I may add that all these 'copueras' are a succession of well kept gardens.

Our road lay through a number of small plantations, in which cotton, tobacco, mandioca, and Indian corn formed almost equal shares. The land was usually fenced with trunks of trees placed horizontally, and the marks of clearance were evident in the charred stumps here and there visible. The ranchos were rude huts with straw roofs sometimes supported by poles and sometimes by walls of sun-burnt bricks called 'adobes,' The occupants were usually half naked, and of quadroon complexion, apparently contented and happy in a state of primitive rudeness, having no wants, and holding their farms of 10 or 20 acres in fee.

The frequent diversity of surface causes the highways to be difficult for travelling, and the horses are so accustomed to an ambling gait that even if the rider were disposed to risk his neck by galloping, he would find it almost impossible to accelerate his pace. The Abruzzi peasants, in Italy, usually count the distances by time, for the paths are steep and tortuous, and it often requires two hours to go half a mile. Something of this kind is true of Paraguay, for it is common to hear the remark: such a place is only two hours' journey, *i. e.* two leagues distant. In fact *ten* leagues is a much heavier day's ride than *thirty* would be considered in Buenos Ayres.

By sunset we were toiling up another

acclivity, and the storm gained on us rapidly, having already enveloped the Cerro in a mist. We tried to urge our horses into a trot, but mine unfortunately took exception to the English bridle, and got very restive. On gaining the summit of the hill I had a wiew of the neat and picturesque village of Itauguá situated on a plain surrounded by wooded heights. The church stands in the middle, and four principal streets meet in the plaza, the white walls of the cemetery terminating the picture.

Soon after entering Sr. Moreno's hospitable dwelling, the rain fell in torrents, and I began to feel nervous about the prospects of my journey on the morrow. We had an excellent supper, and then conversed about Europe, the chief, like most of his countrymen, knowing but little of the exterior world: although all the natives read and write well, I saw but one book in my tour. The Chief is an old bachelor of fifty winters, rather silent, and of a kind disposition, being looked up to by all the neighbours with a filial regard.

He has labored assiduously to make Itauguà a model village, and the neat rows of tile roofs, with white washed corridors supported by brick pillars, give it an aspect of comparative luxury. The population is about 800 including the priest (pai), schoolmaster, justice of peace, tailor, bootmaker, smith, and a number of carpenters, planters &c. There is no doctor, for sickness is rare, and no inn for hospitality is universal. The 'Comandancia' is a handsome cottage with spacious ball room for the townfolk on public festivities: it is lighted with Kerosene oil. Troops may be quartered here, on march, and in every room and corridor are hooks from which to suspend the hammocks.

A band of music, preceded by a huge lantern, promenaded the plaza, playing to my great satisfaction the familiar tunes. "The Campbells are coming. There's nae luck about the house, Garryowen &c." When they stopped at the chief's door, I thought it was to compliment me: but I learned that this is their custom every evening, and as Paraguay has not yet produced any composers, these dusky amateurs have studied some pieces imported by Dr. Stewart, and Mr. Whitehead.

When we slung our hammocks for the night, my host enquired whether I took *máte*, to which I replied in the affirmative. Rocking in my suspended cradle, balmy sleep soon oppressed my sense, and I was dreaming of Garryowen and youthful associations, when, about midnight I was awakened by a jerk of the hammock. A tall fellow stood by my head, holding a *máte* cup, which for good manners I accepted, although after two hours' sleep I was not pleased at the interruption. By daybreak I got up to examine the weather, and found it raining without prospect of cessation.

The church bells were tolling for Mass, and greeting New Year's morn; the horizon began to clear, and about 7 o'clock the rain had ceased. After a light breakfast, I vaulted into the saddle, and accompanied by an orderly took the road for Pirayu. I met numbers of country people, some of them mounted, coming to Mass: the men wore cotton drawers and a square red cloth wrapped around their shoulders, the women had white petticoats and the same red cloth over their heads. The former took off their hats to salute me, and generally addressed a few words in Guarani to my orderly. For half a mile I passed through cotton and tobacco plantations: the fields of bright yellow blossom alternated with the tall green stalks of the latter, and the clean state of these plantations impressed me favorably of the industry of

the peop'e and the wisdom of the Government; for, cotton may be said to have commenced this year, and the tobacco cultivation has been doubled.

Ascending a steep and stony hill crowned with clusters of magnificent trees like elms, I had beneath me the lovely valley called Cajon de Pirayu, bounded by the Cordillera. My orderly spoke Spanish tolerably, and pointed out to me sundry localities with Guarani names difficult to remember and uninteresting to my readers. On every slope and projection of the range of hills on which I stood were rude cabins, encircled by plantations. I had never seen anything so picturesque: the stately palms, whose bare trunks shot up straight as arrows, bearing a tuft of leaves as a crown: the undulating sierra dotted here and there with green woods, straw cottages and dark colored rocks: the low lying valley traversed by the line of railroad, and the peaks of Paraguari standing like huge bastions at the extremity of the Cordillera.

It was about 9 o'clock when I arrived at the Arroyo Estrella; here I was to change horses and take for guide sergeant Marcelino Gomez. After standing the gaze of a dozen wonder-struck natives, I again mounted and had gone a few yards when a decrepit old man, taking off his hat came up and shook hands with me, saying "how unfortunate that I cannot converse with you a few moments." I pushed on, for the sun was hot, and my guide informed me that the old man had come some distance to meet me, having heard that I was to pass that way.

The road was very bad, and as I was glad to find my new orderly a man of considerable intelligence, I learned much about the country, and the method of tobacco planting, of which hereafter. The hills on our right were clad to their summits in dense foliage of different hues. I noticed a great number of cotton fields; some were of last year's plantation pruned, and stood 4 or 5 feet high. Others were but little above ground, having been sown in October or November.

In spite of the recent rain it was very hot when we reached Pirayu, at noon, and I gladly sought the shelter of D. Segundo Concha's roof. The band was playing in front of the church. The place is only a quadrangle of 50 or 60 mud huts, and Sor Concha's the sole house of business. The host gave us a capital dinner, and talked European politics currently: he is very friendly with the railway engineers, and deplores that Francia so long closed the country to foreign intercourse: he deals largely in tobacco, and maintains a family, including servants, of 33 persons. If it should ever fall to the lot of any of my readers to visit Pirayu, I advise him to accept the hospitality of my patriarchal friend. But, the hammocks are slung, and it is time to take 'siesta' before proceeding to Paraguari.

PARAGUARI & YAGUARON.

Itauguá, Jan 4. 1864.

Having rested nearly four hours at Pirayu, I obtained fresh horses and left my compliments for the Gefe of the district, that functionary being asleep. Here I may remark that it is usual for travellers to visit the Chief of each village they pass through. A postilion accompanied us for half a league, and the horses were so miserable that I wondered he gave himself the trouble to come for the purpose of fetching them back. The storm of yesterday seemed to return with double force, for the thunder was echoed from hill to hill, and murky clouds shielded us from

the still burning rays of the sun. We had yet three hours, journey before us.

The first post-house was a wretched 'rancho,' where two men and three women were sleeping, while half a dozen naked children, almost black, were running about or rolling on the ground. One of the men, as soon as he had opened his eyes, fetched me a chair, and I sat under the shade of an orange tree, while my guide and the postilion removed the saddles. These horses were a little better than the last, and the road being very level I attempted to gallop, but found the animal's motion so uncomfortable that I had to forego the idea. The Cordillera of Taipacuà advanced before us in the form of a half moon, till meeting the file of 'Cerros' which terminates at Itauguá: these chains forming the E. S. and W. boundaries converge northwards towards the lake of Taipacuà, thus forming the plain or square (cajon) of Pirayu. Yonder stone pyramid, which seems a gigantic tombstone, is the peak of Mbatovi: my guide informed me that large fragments are seen at the foot of the hill, and tradition speaks of a volcanic eruption. The last of the same range is Santo Tomás, which attains a height of six or seven hundred feet, and has a remarkable cave. The railway earthworks run across the plain on the left of our road, and on the right, amid luxuriant vegetation are numerous small 'copueras' of tobacco, cotton, and maize.

We reached the second post at 5 p. m. the occupants were two old men and a boy. From the roof hung several large branches of tobacco, under process of drying: it was of a light straw color. In a corner I perceived a new wooden cross about 6 feet high which I was informed had just been made to order, for an old lady who died suddenly in the Plaza of Pirayu. Several crosses are seen on the high roads, for sudden deaths are very frequent from lightning, apoplexy &c. and when one of these lugubrious milestones falls away it is instantly replaced by a new one.

The road passed over some marshy ground till we came to a rivulet, where some boys were bathing: after this, much underwood. Huts and gardens less frequent: the hills on the right receding, the Cordillera appearing nearer and more gloomy. The horses were completely beaten up when we arrived at the 3rd post, and to our consternation no fresh ones could be got Meantime the storm thickened, and with difficulty we proceeded to the next post, close to the line of railway, where our postilion left us, and having procured two tolerable hacks we set out at a gallop for Paraguari, which lay behind a 'cerro' next to that of S. Tomas. Soon after sunset, it commenced to rain along the ridge on our right, and when we rounded the crest overhanging the village, the lightning careered across the horizon, the thunder was quite deafening, and Paraguari was enveloped in a terrific storm.

At full speed we entered the plaza, and drew up before the Gefe's door. Presently the rain poured down like a deluge. The village magnate invited me to take *maté*, but I was anxious to find Dr. Fox, and when the tempest subsided I went to his house. I need not say I was a welcome guest, for he received me as if I were an old friend, although self-introduced. After supper he took me to visit the family of Sor Baez, composed of the father and three agreeable daughters. On retiring to rest we talked of England and B. Ayres until we fell asleep. My guide had taken the precaution to solicit horses from the Gefe by daybreak, and the

latter promised to have them in readiness.

Paraguari was formerly one of the Jesuit missions, where the fathers kept three farms with 30,000 head of cattle. The old college and chapel are the only reliques; the first serves as an hospital for the workmen engaged on the railway; the second is being restored, having fallen to decay. Last year there was but one brick house in the village; now there are ten: the rest is a collection of squalid huts. It would seem as if this and the neighboring hamlets had been completely ruined, on the expulsion of the Jesuits. Not far distant is the Cerro Porteño, so called because a B. Ayrean invading force was there annihilated A. D. 1811. The peak of Acai rises to a great height in the direction of Villa Rica, and the view on all sides of the wretched village is charming.

The morning was fresh and cloudy but Dr. Fox would not suffer me to leave without breakfast, and the young ladies next door had sent me a kind of sponge-cake as a souvenir. At 8 a. m. the horses were not yet forthcoming, and I found the 'Gefe' and 'pai' (priest) just about to start for Itaugua. The former assured me I should have them at once, but it was ten o'clock before I was in the saddle.

Passing a number of cotton plantations in excellent condition, we soon entered a thick forest, through which we travelled for an hour, meeting nothing but a wayside cross, a solitary wood man, and two women on foot, carrying bundles of linen. If this forest were in the province of Buenos Ayres, two men travelling unarmed might have reason for alarm, but here the police system is perfect, and the people harmless. I confess I felt some remorse to have left my revolver in Asuncion when I saw the emblem of Religion under such ominous circumstances, and recollected that tigers *are* seen at rare intervals in this wood. The trees sometimes exceeded 150 feet in height, and those levelled by the storm almost blocked up the road.

We changed horses midway, and I got a glass of caña and water, although it is bad to drink under such circumstances, but I was quite faint from the scorching influence of a tropical sun. The rest of the route to Yaguaron was ornamented with tobacco and cotton plantations, palm trees, and a tree called by a Guarani name, signifying 'red wood.'

At noon we sighted the peak of Yaguaron, towering above all around, and after some minutes the village appeared on the far side of a lagoon, which the postilion carefully waded, bringing us up to another of the famous Jesuit Missions. We went to the chief's house, but he was gone to the capital; I at length made out the justice, D. Rafael Velasquez, who heartily welcomed me, and, after a short rest, conducted me to the ancient church. This was one of the last and greatest works of the Jesuits, and bears the date 1755. The exterior is simple; a portico and tile roof, without belfry or turret. The interior is highly ornamental, having pillars of carved wood, an antique pulpit, fancy roof, and fine altars. There are daubed frescoes on the walls, representing the Passion, but I think they are more modern, and in bad taste with the rest. The doors and sacristy are beautifully wrought, the brickwork is seven feet thick, and the edifice about 30 feet high. There are two bells outside, hung from a wooden scaffold: their dates are 1774 and 1782, both subsequent to the expulsion of the fathers. The church is called St. Bonaventura, and stands in the midst of what was once a town, but is now

only a mud-built hamlet. The Jesuit College is now the district prison. There is a chapel dedicated to San Roque hard by, and perfectly useless, for Yaguaron is only visited at intervals by a priest: this chapel was erected by an Indian cacique, in fulfilment of a vow. On the crest of Yaguaron Peak stand two immense crosses, placed there by the Jesuits, who have identified their name with almost every object we meet in Paraguay. The village has two schools, attended by nearly 300 children, for the neighbourhood is very populous.

Sr. Velasquez obliged me and my guide to remain for dinner, which was served up in first-rate style. The day looked cloudy, and instead of taking 'siesta,' I ordered the horses and gave the word 'ya-ha' (in French 'en avant'), setting out for Itá at a short gallop.

MY THIRD DAY ON HORSE BACK.

Asuncion Jan. 5th 1864.

The sky was overcast, when I passed the peak of Yaguaron, and although the distance to Ita was only two leagues, I had to cross some ranges of hills, which made the journey one of two hours. Nothing remarkable greets the traveller's eye, for a couple of miles, the road being lined with underwood. As soon as I caught a glimpse of the surrounding country, the hills were overshadowed by a fearful storm, and the lightning flashes gleamed amid the heavy clouds now encircling the horizon. Large drops fell slowly, as if to warn the wayfarer, and I quickly sought the shelter of a rude hut, the owner of which was making posts for a shed, while his wife nursed a naked child 15 or 18 month's old. A bedstead, bench, and cotton loom constituted the entire furniture, the last being a wooden frame with several sticks, placed horizontally, and loosely strung together. The tempest burst with all its fury and seemed likely to sweep away the fragile dwelling; then the rain fell in copious torrents and I dreaded the possibility of its continuing all night. At 5 p. m. the wind veered, and it became a little clear. When the rain abated I ordered the guide and postilion to get ready the horses, and after half an hour's ride over a heavy, slippery, road, we arrived at the half way post house. Here the storm had torn off a part of the roof, and the owner invited me to pass the night, as the weather was threatening. I resolved to push on, and while they were catching and saddling the horses, I had time to observe a large quantity of tobacco hung from the roof to dry, and two girls who were washing linen. Outside the house were rows of stakes for drying tobacco, and hanging maize on, for they serve as store houses, beyond the reach of vermin.

After fording a small stream, we ascended a hill where the recent storm had made great ravages: gigantic trees were torn up from the roots, and shattered branches lay around. About sunset we sighted the village of Ita on a slight eminence, and arriving there proceeded to the Gefe's house. The townfolk were saying the Rosary in church, and I had made up my mind to stop, for the night, in the old Jesuit college attached, where I sat with the Gefe, drinking caña. The walls of this edifice were very solid, and tastefully carved. On learning that an Englishman lived in the town, I expressed a wish to visit him, and a soldier accompanied me to his house. He was sitting on a bench outside the door, enjoying the cool breath of evening. At my salutation his eyes seemed

to brighten, and sitting down beside him I began to enquire his strange history. His name was Luke Cressor; he was born in York city, A. D 1784, had been at the battle of Waterloo, passed Napoleon en route for St. Helena, served as clerk in the house of Cartwright at Asuncion, known the Robertsons, travelled to *Mendoza* and Salta, descended the Rio Vermejo, incurring six years banishment by Francia to Concepción, among the Indians, and resided nearly half a century in Paraguay. He is an old bachelor, and told me his only friend was a little English dog, fawning at his feet. He desired me to give his compliments to Messrs Kern and Grierson, B. Ayres, and declared his intention to return to England this year.

When I returned to the Gefe's house I found a dish of oranges ready peeled and a sponge cake, of which I partook. It was eight o'clock when I galloped out of Ita, for the guide, whose suggestions I always followed, anticipated rain next day and advised me to risk a journey by night rather than detention at this village, which, by the way is famous for its manufactures of earthenware.

It is four leagues from Ita to Itaugua, and before we had gone quarter the distance, night fell. No moon or stars were visible; but the frequent lightnings in some manner assisted us to follow our route. My guide went first, the postilion, who was mounted on a donkey, remaining behind me. The road was uneven and sometimes steep, but not lonely, for huts and plantations succeeded each other closely. Some we distinguished by a light within: in others we heard the sounds of a tamborine to which probably the natives were dancing. We met some women afoot carrying lanterns. There were evident signs of another storm, but I could not urge on my horse, for he stumbled at times, and I could not see a yard ahead. Coming to a stream, the guide obliged the postilion to go first, and we forded, the water being up to the horses' necks.

The lights in Itaugua were visible as we rounded the crest of a hill, but we had yet a league to travel. The postilion remaining some way behind, I heard, I thought, some one whistling forward, but learned it was a kind of frog. It was midnight when we reached Itaugua, and found Sor Moreno anxiously expecting our arrival, according to engagement. I was too tired to look for anything to eat, and flinging myself into the hammock slept soundly for a couple of hours, until my dusky friend awoke me with the *mate*-cup, as before, but this time I positively declined it.

My guide was right, for it rained next day (3rd January) without intermission. On Monday at daybreak, Sor Moreno and I mounted our horses, followed by four soldiers, and arrived at the railway station by 7 a. m. Here we learned there had been no trains the previous day, owing to the weather, and a train was expected in the evening.

During twelve hours, delay I had time to write some of these letters and moralize on the hardship of remaining all day without food. At last the locomotive came up, and having taken a long train of building materials started at 8. p. m. for the capital. On demanding a ticket, I was informed by the conductor that he had orders to carry me free. It was half past nine when we reached the terminus, and I found some 2nd class passengers had stolen my bridle and saddle cloth, for by mistake my saddle and gear had been placed in a 2nd class carriage.

The official report shews the amount of cotton 'lineos' planted in the five districts I had visited, as follows; Itaugua 35,095, Pirayù 26,898, Paraguari

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48,298, Yaguaron 53,096, Ita 28,087. —Total 201,475 'lineos' or fifteen millions cotton hills. Taking an average of 200 'lineos' to each 'copuera' we find this quantity distributed over 1000 little farms cultivated by as many families. The aggregate amount of land under the above plantation is about 5000 acres, and the yield will, probably exceed 150,000 arrobes ginned cotton, at a medium calculation (1 lb. per plant) between the results arrived at in N. America and Corrientes.

Yet these districts contain only one-eighth of the total quantity planted and I have not mentioned the new plantations of October and November, which in Itaugua alone, exceed 22,000 'lineos.'

I cannot close this chapter without bearing testimony to the kindness and hospitality I everywhere experienced, and the assiduous attention of my intelligent guide, D. Marcelino Gomez.

COTTON CROP IN PARAGUAY.

Asuncion, Jan 6th, 1864.

The quantity of cotton planted, in 1863, throughout the republic is really enormous. President Lopez, in his anxiety to promote a national industry, procured 300 sacks of seed from the U. States, some of which, however, has resulted badly: I believe mostly Georgian. There was also a large stock of native seed, besides the remains of former plantations, which have been pruned. The cultivation of cotton being obligatory has become universal, and is carefully attended to.

Owing to the excessive heat of the season I was unable to make long excursions in the interior, but my ride of 60 miles on horseback was sufficient to give me some idea of the crop now springing up. At every step of

small plantations in excellent condition, the inhabitants having sown a second time in the few places where the seed missed.

I place implicit reliance in the official report made up by Government from the returns of the several rural authorities. It must, moreover, be borne in mind that the report ends with Sept. after which date very large plantations have been laid down, especially in October and November, bringing up the real number of plants to almost double that set forth in said official report.

The quarter ending June 30th shews 773,480 'lineos,' that ending Sept. 30th, 736,391; giving an aggregate of over a million and a half of 'lineos' The 'lineo' is usually 83 'varas,' and the plants distant one 'vara' (34 inches) one from another. Allowing the new plantations for any losses, we have still *Two hundred millions* of cotton hills, the product of which at a low calculation, (1 lb per plant) compared with the results proved at Corrientes, will give *Eight millions* arrobes seed cotton or *Two millions* arrobes ginned

I have seen the original letter of Messrs Emmott of Manchester to Messrs Blyth and Co London, offering 24d. (4 reals silver) per lb. for Paraguay cotton such as the last remitted. This would give the above quantity a value of Twenty four million patacones, or Fifteen hundred thousand doubloons.

This magnificent sum will dazzle the sceptical, and give room for suspicion of gross error or exaggeration, but there can be no question that, saving some terrible and unforeseen calamity, the Cotton crop of Paraguay for 1864 will be stupendous, and cause a revolution in the commerce of these rivers.

The difficulties of carriage and labor are not formidable, although existing in some degree. The roads of the interior traverse a very unequal country but

are generally dry and sandy, free from those marshes which impede traffic in the camps of B. Ayres. Above all, the distances are comparatively short, the centre of the agricultural districts (Villa Rica) being 35 leagues from the capital and chief port. It is rather fortunate than otherwise that Government takes an active interest in Cotton, for it can always dispose of 20,000 troops in case of a want of hands.

At an outlay of 400 doubloons, President Lopez might furnish each of the 81 departments with a Macartney gin, and, by saving three-fourths of the land carriage, an immense benefit would be thus derived. It is to be hoped the duties will be light, on its exportation, for the dream of Francia's time, to manufacture cotton at home, is now demonstrated a puerile absurdity. I impressed on the Government the error of importing N. American seed, which is annual, instead of the Egyptian or other perennial classes, which require much less labor and are better suited to the climate. It will perhaps hardly be necessary to introduce foreign seed after this year's crop.

Although small portions may be sent to France or Belgium, the great bulk will of course prefer England, and Liverpool traders may expect to find, in B. Ayres, 20,000 tons of a new species of cargo this year.

I rejoice that I have come to Paraguay, and seen the first indications of this great industry, of which, without exposing myself to the charge of egotism, I may truly say the *Standard* was the precursor.

TOBACCO IN PARAGUAY.

Asuncion, Jan. 6th, 1864.

Hitherto this branch of agriculture was regarded as the great staple of the republic, and although it yields to cotton in the returns for 1863, a much larger plantation has been laid down this year than ever before. In fact, it amounts to 1,414,000 'lineos,' which causes the anticipation of an enormous crop, and consequently a fall in price among the holders in B. Ayres. At the same time, tobacco is worth three reals more per arrobe in Asuncion than the price quoted in the B. Ayrean market, as merchants prefer losing this much, in sending produce, rather than to pay the duty, ten per cent., on export of gold. At present it is almost impossible to get good tobacco or cigars, for, like oranges in Malta, or cheese at Stilton, it seems the inhabitants export all, leaving themselves without a supply, even for home use.

The tobacco most esteemed seems to be of the kinds known as Canela and Pará. The former is so called from its resemblance to cinnamon (canela) in color, and does not come from any particular district, being picked out by the 'acopiador' from various lots. The Pará, or speckled kind, is also met with here and there, the spots coming out while the plant is yet in flower: the word in 'guarani' signifies 'spotted,' and cigars called 'Peti-pará' are made from this class. Canela tobacco is in such request that it is difficult to procure it unless through the kindness of some Gefe or acopiador: it is often worth four to six silver dollars per arrobe. The Peti-Hobi cigars are so famous that I need scarcely tell my readers they are the best smoking to be had in Paraguay, and sell usually at half a doubloon per thousand. There is an imitation of the same manufactured at Villa Rica, the outer leaf being Peti-Hobi, which sells at half the above price, but connoisseurs call these 'Villa Rica cigars.'

I have heard repeated complaints of the folly of Paraguayans in suffering

this staple to fall into disfavour by neglect in the process of curing, and frauds in baling. My ignorance of agriculture and short stay will not permit me to give full details of the method of cultivation.

During winter, the natives do no more than prepare the ground, putting down the young plants usually in September or October. They are planted like cabbage in England, and, after two months transplanted: if heavy rain falls in the interval it is rather injurious. A couple of months later (January or February) the gathering commences, and the leaves are hung out in the sun to dry, after which they are tied in bundles from the roof, waiting the visit of the 'acopiador.' Tobacco should be dried in the shade by the wind; for exposure to the sun is bad, and some ascribe to this the bitter taste of Paraguay tobacco: it is also badly made up for exportation. The common tobacco called 'commercial' is exceedingly strong, and even an accustomed smoker is liable to have his stomach or head disordered on trying one of these cigars for the first time. The women make a great quantity of ill-fashioned cigars, which they take to market every morning, and if smoked the same day they are much milder. Merchants usually sell the better kinds in boxes of 500, and a duty of half a real (two pence) per mil is levied, on exportation.

The tobacco plantations present a very pleasing appearance before fully ripe, the tall stalks and large green leaves alternating with the mandioca & bright yellow cotton-flowers. The natives, besides raising sufficient quantities for home consumption—for men and women all smoke—count upon a ready and profitable return in exporting to England. The Government has taken, I understand, decided measures whereupon to prevent the frauds committed in baling, and before long Paraguay tobacco will stand higher in the commercial world, while increasing the exports of this industrious republic.

There are no cigar-shops in Asuncion, but wholesale merchants have wide-spread connexion with the 'acopiadores,' and are usually polite enough to procure for the visitor any quantity he may require.

AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ. (*)

Asuncion Dec. 24 1863.

Soon after my arrival, I expressed to D. Carlos Saguier my desire to be presented to the President, and General Lopez was kind enough to send me word that he would be most happy to receive me on the morning of the 24th, 10 a. m. at the Government Palace. Accordingly having borrowed a body coat and white cravat (for strict court dress is indispensable) I proceeded this morning to the palace. A captain of dragoons conducted me to a small room, in a building at right angles with the palace, informing me that His Excellency had not yet arrived. Being left alone I had occasion to reflect on the splendid appearance of the troops and their superiority to the heterogeneous rabble of Buenos Ayres or Montevideo, dignified with the name of 'army.' The dragoons mounting guard at the palace, in bright scarlet uniforms and helmets with flowing tails, might be mistaken for a 'crack' regiment of British cavalry. The infantry are, on an average, superior to any I have seen in Europe, being about 5 feet 10 inches in height, and well made in proportion.

(*) This letter should appear, as its date indicates, before that of page 92.

At half past ten a flourish of trumpets is heard, and the drums beat 'reveillée'; at which detachments of the various regiments turn out to form in the plaza. Presently a group of officers glittering in gold lace ride up to the first file, and while the troops present arms I recognise the foremost cavalier to be President Lopez. He is mounted on a spirited grey charger, bedecked with trappings and saddle cloth not unlike those used by the Emperor Napoleon; the gold bee alone is wanting. The band plays some opera music, as the President (I had almost said Emperor) dismounts and passes through the vestibule lined by the dragoons. An officer comes to ask for my card, and lead me to the anti-chamber, where I meet the Bolivian minister with his secretary, and a stout looking priest.

Colonel Aguiar, the President's aide-de-camp, holds us in conversation for a few minutes, till an official comes to announce that Dr. Arce and his sec. may "step this way." The ante-chamber is a small bare looking apartment, with half a dozen cane bottomed chairs, and seems to have served as a guard room, when Francia lived in this palace and no one durst approach or speak to him, during the Reign of Terror. The priest informs me that he has just arrived from Pilar, and that the Cotton plantations are in excellent condition.

After 15 or 20 minutes the official summons me, and crossing the hall, I enter a large richly furnished saloon The President is seated on a sofa, and as I bow to him, he advances to shake hands with me (a rare honor under the late administration). Don Francisco Solano Lopez, eldest son of the last President is about 38 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches in height, very stout, and wears a profusion of beard; his complexion is clear, his hair and eyes jet black, his voice modulous, and general expression good natured, though very firm. He dresses in his grade of Brigadier general, but without any of the French, Sardinian or Brazilian decorations which he has received.

So, Señor Mulhall, you have come to visit us in Paraguay?

Yes, your Excellency, I arrived last week.

And what do you think of the country?

I am happy to say that the late improvements so much spoken of are far greater than I had expected.

You have come in our most rigorous season of heat, but you are just in time for the Christmas festivals of Independence.

I came sir, almost by accident, for I had only intended to visit Corrientes, until I read in the official report that over 100 millions of cotton hills had been laid down in Paraguay.

Have they much cotton in Corrientes?

Not quite two million of plants.

What interest have you in cotton?

None, your Excellency, other than to second the plans of the Manchester Association, and promote a new industry in the Argentine republic.

Here the President enquired very minutely the nature and object of the Cotton Supply Association, besides which I furnished him with the principal statistics of cotton industry, and explained to him the kinds of seed most adapted for this climate.

His Excellency, on learning that I was an Irishman, made several remarks concerning the condition of Ireland and questioned me about the famine, emigration, O'Connell, popular feeling, grievances and political regimen, observing also the misery of Irishmen at home, and their invariable good fortune abroad. He added that he had spent some time in Ireland, and was much pleased with my native city (Dublin.)

After referring to a number of matters often discussed in B. Ayres and involving delicate treatment, his Excellency asked me whether I intended to make a tour of the interior, to see the cotton plantations: which I answered affirmatively.

You will find we have planted a good deal.

The reports, sir, shew 1,500,000 'lineos.'

Not so much I think.

Your Excellency will pardon me: the quarters ending June and September give, each, over 750,000; irrespective of October plantations.

True, I remember; and whatever you require, Mr. Mulhall, for the journey, shall be gladly afforded you: it remains with you to order the same. I am anxious to make your stay as agreeable as possible and only regret you intend leaving us so soon.

I thanked the President for his kindness, and withdrew, very much predisposed to view favorably a country with so intelligent, affable and progressive a ruler.

GENERAL REMARKS ON PARAGUAY.

Asuncion, January 1864.

As this republic seems destined to rank third as a cotton-growing country, it is important that my readers in Manchester & elsewhere should have some mere accurate information than is contained in geographies and gazetteers however recent. A work before me represents Buenos Ayres as the capital of Paraguay, and the common error of confounding these parts of the old Viceroyalty is not yet wholly rectified. I have seen a letter from the Manchester Association treating Corrientes as a part of Paraguay; and the author of a standard S. American work sets down the population of this country at a fifth of its real number.

Paraguay is situated between 22 and 27 S. Lat and 55 & 58 W. long. including an area of 70,000 square miles or 45 millions of acres, rather more than double the size of Ireland. It is bounded on the N. by the Rio Apa, which separates it from Brazil; on the S, & E. by the river Paraná, the boundary of the Argentine province of Corrientes, and of Brazil; and on the W. by the river Paraguay, washing the shores of the Gran Chaco. The population, by the census of 1857, amounted to 1,337,449, about the same as that of the Argentine Republic, which has ten times the above extent of territory. This gives a ratio of 19 inhabitants to the square mile, against 4 in the Banda Oriental, and (less than) 2 in La Plata. There are several territorial questions; with Brazil on the N. for the territory between the rivers Blanco and Apa; with La Plata on the S. for a part of the Misiones; and with the Indians on the W. for the unconquered wilds of the Gran Chaco.

The population is very unevenly distributed, not more than one third (22,000 sq. miles) of the country being settled on, or occupied in tillage or pasture. The cordillera of Amanbay bisects the country, the eastern half being almost uninhabited, and the various towns and villages lying between this range and the river Paraguay. The Yerbales or mate-fields are principally found along the base of the Amanbay, and on the opposite side of this ridge are the sources of five rivers which fall into the Paraná. Of the seven tributaries of the Paraguay on its eastern bank the Tibiquari is the most important, and Government is now seriously occupied in making it navigable.

There are few large towns in the interior: Villa Rica, however, almost rivals Asuncion in the number of inhabitants, and when the railway shall be completed, it will receive an extraordinary impulse. On the banks of the Paraguay stand Rosario, San Pedro, and Concepcion, distant respectively 70, 100, and 150 miles N. of the capital. Higher up is the Pan-de-Azucar, which rises 1350 feet above the level of the river, and is the greatest elevation in the republic. The cataract, Salto de Guayra, on the Paraná, 24 S., is a natural curiosity, which completely bars further navigation; the noise of the fall is heard 20 miles off.

The climate is warm and dry, the soil fertile and yielding in abundance all the fruits of the tropics. November, December, & January, are the hottest months, when the medium temperature is 90 in the shade, but it sometimes rises to 101: in May and June the average is 51, falling at rare intervals so low as 41. Although in the same latitude as Rio Janeyro, the country is free from yellow fever, and all kinds of epidemics are unknown. Being 500 miles distant from the Atlantic ocean, and 900 from the Pacific, there are no sea-breezes, but the N. and S. winds exercise a considerable influence on the temperature and inhabitants: the first has a relaxing tendency, the second is cooling and often brings rain and storms.

Iron ore abounds everywhere, and there is a large smelting establishment at Ibicuy, founded by Government in 1854. The ores of Caapucù and Quiquio yield respectively 36 and 31 per cent pure iron. The works at Ibicuy are actively carried on by a director, 25 artisans, and 94 operatives, all natives. Copper is found in some places, and it is said, also Mercury. The forests cover an immense superficies, and comprise an unequalled variety of timber: Du Graty enumerates 51 different kinds.

Among the wild animals are the ape, monkey, wild boar, jaguar, puma, tiger-cat, and fox. Azara counts 448 kinds of birds, the prettiest of which is a diminutive parrot called Viudita, no larger than a canary. Of reptiles, the most remarkable are the boa constrictor (25 feet long), the rattlesnake, and vivora de la cruz: crocodiles, 25 feet long, and lizards, reaching to 6 or 8 feet, are very numerous near the rivers. Bees and cochineal are also common, and the locust pays periodical visits, often destroying a whole district.

The appearance of the country is undulating, the vegetation luxuriant, and the signs of industry universal in the populous districts. The want of public conveyances and the roughness of the roads are a serious check to domestic trade; nor is there any way of travelling in the interior, unless by means of a Government order, which enables one to change horses wherever they can be found.

CUSTOMS OF THE NATIVES.

Paraguay has been sometimes compared to China, and it is verily a nation so different not only from European societies, but from any other of the South American continent, that the simile is not extravagant. Partly owing to its complete isolation for a long period of years, partly to the great mixture of Spanish and Indian blood, in which the latter predominates, almost to the extinction of the European tongue and element; partly to the training of the Jesuits in the time of the Christian republic, this country is wholly *sui generis*, without parallel or affinity to any other. Progress and barbarism,

education and ignorance, liberty and despotism, are so oddly blended, in close juxtaposition, that no two travellers will agree in their impressions: the Argentine will declare the people but little elevated above the brute creation, and the Government the worst that could afflict humanity, while some one with contrary prejudices will find here the 'ne plus ultra' of everything charming.

The truth to me seems that it is a country of contradictions. Many of the advancements of modern science receive more protection than elsewhere in S. America, but the people are not on a level with those of the sister republics. There can, it is certain, hardly be found a Paraguayan who cannot read and write, but books and newspapers seem a forbidden fruit, and the exterior world is as little known as to those who dwell on the Yellow River or in the steppes of Tartary. The republican form of Government gives an idea of popular rights, yet the President is more absolute than any European autocrat. The Paraguayan has many good traits, but his obedience often degenerates into servility, & his piety into superstition. He pretends to be frank, but is cautious and reserved, and will oftener ask questions than answer them. He is polite and hospitable to foreigners, yet minister Beijes assured me the prejudice against Europeans was very strong. He has, however, unquestionable advantages over his neighbors in being orderly, industrious, unoffending, cleanly, and intelligent.

In the interior the people go almost naked, the climate tending to a lightness of clothing that would shock the sensitive. Francia passed an edict that everyone must wear a hat, and this sometimes forms the sole habilimert of children. Tall black hats are in general use, and serve also as pockets, for therein are deposited combs, money, 'chipa,' handkerchiefs, letters, razors, looking glass &c. As salutations are frequent, it is very droll to observe the method adopted for taking off the hat without dropping its contents; the head is inclined to an angle of 90, on the right shoulder, and when the helmet is fairly secured a polite bow follows. I have seen the peasants, at sunset or early morn, come to the Comandante with their hands joined, like children, to ask his blessing: this is probably a relique of Jesuit discipline.

Nearly everybody goes bare-foot, and I was surprised at the number of pedestrians, so different from B. Ayrean gauchos: women will sometimes undertake journeys of 15 or 20 leagues, carrying burdens on their heads. Most of the washerwomen of Asuncion live at Luque, and carry their clothes-bundles three leagues each time. Cleanliness is a national feature, and bathing a daily practise: the houses too are well kept, and even the huts, whose only furniture is a hammock of cotton or matting, present no signs of filth. The peasants are naturally so peaceable that life and property are secure, and it is rare to see even a pistol or fowling piece in any house. The roads are safe by day and night and the police system is so perfect that a criminal or vagabond is at once seized. Burglary is unknown, but pilfering is common and scarcely reckoned a fault. Public morality does not stand high, and it is said of Francia that he enforced all the Commandments except the sixth (anglicé, the seventh). The religious teaching of the Jesuits still appears in the punctual attendance at Mass on Sundays and at the Rosary every evening, in church. Moreover when the Angelus or Ave Maria bell rings, all heads are uncovered and the way-farers stand with their faces

towards the church while they say a Hail Mary.

Superstition, although not so deeply rooted as in some other countries, shews a cave in the Cerro of Paraguari where St Thomas the Apostle resided some years and his body was afterwards found. The poor people believe this as firmly as Christ's Resurrection, and it would be useless to argue with them an anachronism between the Christian era and that of the Spanish discoverers. Supernatural effects are also ascribed to certain images, medals &c., and what Catholicity only intended for memen toes of devotion are converted into a species of religious charms. The priests take no pains to remove or modify these impresions. Apropos. I have seen persons in Corrientes dedicate candles and make pilgrimages to the spot where a gaucho named Francisco Lopez was shot by order of Rosas for desertion and robbery.

Spanish is not spoken by any family in Paraguay, unless when a foreigner happens to pay a visit: it is in fact a foreign tongue, Guarani, the great Indian dialect, being always used, except in church, where the people pray in Spanish. Sermons are sometimes also in Spanish, although some of the men, and most of the women, do not understand it. This is the only country, in which the language of the European settlers has given place to the Indian.

When we see how hardy and robust are the natives, we almost wonder that their diet is mostly vegetables or fruits They rarely eat meat, living usually on one meal in which maize, mandioca, oranges, and 'chipa' form the chief ingredients. Chipa is a kind of bread, made of wheat or Indian corn mixed with milk or cheese: it looks oily, and is very agreeable, but foreigners have a prejudice against it.

Cigars are abundant, and when a stranger visits a house, one of the young ladies usually lights a Peti-hobi and then after a couple of whiffs hands it to him. I have not, however, seen any ladies smoke. It would require a long residence to learn the various customs of Paraguay, but I saw enough to convince me of the few faults and general good-nature of the people.

THE GUARANI INDIANS AND LANGUAGE.

The Guarani Indians having given their language to this republic and become, as I have shewn, blended with the European invaders, require some special notice. This tribe was one of the most powerful in former times, & their tongue the most widely diffused through this part of the continent. The pure race is now almost extinct, but we may judge of their splendid physical proportions from the roqust, sinewy & laborious offspring of their cross with the early Spaniards. Their ready acceptance of the Christian religion and civilized customs speaks also for their high order of intellect, and a study of their language shews the poetic tendency of their ideas. The Caaguas are the only descendents of this great family still existing in savage isolation, and although naturally indolent they often work in the Yerba forests, and, besides fishing and hunting, subsist in part on maize and mandioca of their own growth: they are always on friendly terms with their Christian neighbors.

Guarani being universally spoken in Paraguay is here more pure than in Corrientes, where a large admixture of Spanish has taken place.— Nevertheless it is not now the language of the past century, as we find

on comparing it with the dictionaries compiled by the Jesuits. It is, I believe, the only Indian tongue possessing some literary works. Three dictionaries and a catechism were published at Madrid in the 17th century, the works of Jesuit fathers, & amidst the wilds of Paraguay (now destitute of books) the Jesuit printing-presses of Santa Maria Mayor, and S. Francisco Xavier (villages of Misiones) gave to light the following publications mentioned in a B. Ayrean catalogue: 1, The difference between temporal and eternal, by Nieremberg, 1705: 2, Jesuits Manual for Paraguay, 1721; 3, Guarani Dictionary 1724; 4, Guarani Catechism 1724: 5, Sermons & examples, by Tapaguay (probably a native Jesuit) 1724.

The works if extant are very scarce, and I only heard of two copies of some of them, in possession of the priest at Villa Rica. The language is soft but very difficult to learn, owing to the abundance of nasal and guttural sounds. Notwithstanding my experience in picking up new tongues, remembering any word I can write down, this dialect quite baffled me and my half doz n European idioms were of course no assistance. I learned to say *Eru-tata-mini* when I wanted to light my cigar, and *Eru-y* when I felt thirsty. My guide moreover called a dense forest *Caa guazú*, a muddy road *tapa tuda*, a sandy one *tapa ibicuy*, cotton *mandigú*, and tobacco *penier*; but I was unable to acquire 20 words in as many days. I have read somewhere, that the first converts could not restrain their laughter in church, at the attempts of German, Spanish and Irish Jesuits to preach in Guarani. But this must have been at the outset, for a couple of years is sufficient to make one master of it, and Mr. Thompson, C. E. of the Asuncion railway, speaks it most fluently after five years' residence.

Besides the Guarani, the Spanish settlers met on their arrival the Payaguas tribe, but the latter was so indomitable that nothing could bring them on a friendly footing, and the race was almost exterminated. A few still remain, and I met a cacique named Miguel who was a magnificent specimen of muscular development, but a very cunning cheat in the traffic of curiosities, such as bows, arrows, horns tiger-skins, birds &c It is said of these Payaguas that they destroy all their children but one or two: this would account for the destruction of the race, but I cannot guarantee the shocking imputation.

There are very few negroes or mulattoes in Paraguay. In Asuncion, where some white blood has remained almost pure, the color of the inhabitants is a shade lighter than in the interior.

AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, GOVERNMENT.

Although the products of Paraguay are little known to foreign nations, this country is far ahead of its neighbours in agriculture I have already mentioned the signs of industry which met my eye on all sides, and which are very rare or totally unseen in the Argentine Provinces. Peaceful security and a fertile soil favor the efforts of the husbandman, and tobacco, yerba, sugar-cane, rice, mandioca, maize, and divers fruits yield abundant harvests.

The Government industrial statistics for 1865 give an accurate idea of the

relative importance of the items, as unde. :

Indian corn	...	...	1',969,191 linos
Mandi ca	...	...	5,566 124 .
Pe s and beans	...	...	3,642,349
Cotton	...	..	1,5 9 411
Tobacco	...	...	1,113,977
Sugar cane	...	...	1,.54,373
Maiz	...	...	546,.71
Melons and pumpkins		...	297,1 4
Rice	..	...	243,556
Wne t and barley		...	216,.91
Swee potatoes	...		2 5,027
Vege ables of diver ki ds		...	579,438

This shows an aggregate of rather more than half a million acres under tillage, independent of the yerba-mate fields which engross so much labor, and the produce whereof may be reckoned the primary staple of the country.

Maize and mandioca constitute two-thirds of the agricu'ture, forming the chief maintenance of the natives: the first usually yields 150 to one, and is sometimes exported when the crops fail in the Argentine Republic; the second, is a common article of food, like potatoes in Ireland, and when reduced to powder, is called by the Brazilians *fariña*, and in Europe, arrowroot. Tobacco gives three crops in the year, and besides supplying an immense home consumption, estimated at 15 millions lbs., affords a large surplus for exportation. In 1836 the crop hardly exceeded 2½ millions lbs., whereas in 1859 the exports alone amounted to 5½ millions lbs., worth about £60,000. Calculating an arrobe (25lbs) per *lino*, the crop this year would reach the enormous figure of 37 millions lbs., giving a nett profit to the growers (at 5s. per *lino*), of £350,000. The prices range as follows per arrobe:—Peti-para, 17s. to 20s; good quality, 8s. to 10s; inferior and ordinary, 3s. to 8s. In 1854, measures were taken by Government to prevent fraud in baling, and tobacco at once rose to exactly double the price for previous years, which rate is at present maintained. In 1855 Paraguay tobacco was awarded a gold medal and honorable mention at the Paris Exposition. Sugar cane might form a much more important item, were the proper machinery at hand for making sugar: at present a large quantity of molasses is produced, and a spirit called Paraguayan caña, one of the most agreeable liqueurs I have ever tasted. Rice is grown for home consumption, equal to the best Carolina, and giving as much as 250 to one. Wheat is little attended to. Coffee is limited to two or three small plantations, although superior to the Brazilian, and resembling that of Moka, or Yungas (Bolivia), in aroma and flavor. The timbers of Paraguay attracted favourable notice at Paris in 1855, and there are several kinds of bark most useful in tanning.

Yerba-mate or Paraguay tea is a Government monopoly, since 1846, and forms more than half the exports of the Republic, being grown in immense forests of the interior. The Guarani Indians taught the use of it to the first settlers, and it is now a general substitute for coffee throughout the River Plate territories. The price (per arrobe) rose from 8s. in 1851, to 16s. in 1855, and 24s. in 1860; the Government pays 5s. per arrobe to those who produce it, the latter allowing their workmen about 10d. per arrobe; it is at present sold in Buenos Ayres (1864) at 2s. per lb. The export for 1860 amounted to 4,163,425 lb., valued at £190,000.

Industry is protected by light duties on exports, and heavy on imports (except agricultural implements), the only burden being that of tithes. Government advances funds (without security) to farmers at a moderate interest of 6 per cent per annum.

Commerce has grown up rapidly in the last decade (1851-60) since the

rivers and ports have been thrown open to foreign flags.

	Imports. Dols.	Exports. Dols.
1851 ...	130,917 ...	347 614
1855 ...	431 835 ...	1,095,900
1859 ...	1,539,648 ...	2,199.678
1860 ...	835,841 ...	1,893,904

By the above table we see that trade has increased seven-fold, and that the exports are usually double the imports, just the contrary of Buenos Ayres. The decrease of exports in 1860, compared with 1859, is attributable to a partial failure of tobacco. The sum of ten years shows a balance in favor of the republic of $3,850,014 (3s. each), or £577,502, most of which sum has been laid out in the arsenal, railway iron, arms, and education of youths in Europe, which do not figure in the Customs. The following list shows the exported value of 1860.

	Dols.
Yerba-mate	1,693,860
Tobacco	292,633
Timber	14,799
Dry hides	187,767
Tanned do	22,853
Bark for tanning	22,474
Oranges	23,415
Miscellaneous	35,886
Total	1,693 901 = £254,685

This sum represents about one-eighth of the exports of Buenos Ayres, but if we add 30,000 bales of cotton for 1864 the figure will be nearly doubled.

The imports of 1864 are thus made up :—

	Dols.
Silk	3,225
Woollens	153,606
Linens and cottons	344,043
Hardware	29,651
Wines	51.261
Spirits	17,755
Groceries	155,665
Fancy goods	41,743
Boots and shoes	14,610
Books	3.291
Other articles	56,662

The shipping movement was as follows (1860):—

Arrivals—National, 30; foreign, 118 = 148
Sailings—National, 30; foreign, 178 = 208

The import duties, averaging 21 per cent., produced in 1860 $191,623; and exports, averaging 5 per cent., $98,030. Yerba is free of impost, but gold or silver, even coined, pays an export duty of 10 per cent.

The Government, nominally a Republic, is really a hereditary Monarchy, the actual President having succeeded his father in 1862; the Chambers are convened every ten years, leaving the Executive absolute power. The army in active service is composed of 12,000 infantry, cavalry, and artillery, with 200 pieces of cannon: the reserve or militia counts 46,000 men, also well disciplined. The navy boasts eleven steamers, only one of which (the Iacuari) is a proper war vessel, and the sailing ships are insignificant in number. The frontier is perfectly guarded and fortified on all important points, and the country is better organised than the sister states, as regards its military and police administration.

FAREWELL TO PARAGUAY

On board the 'Igurey,'
Jan. 8, 1864.

The day before packet-sailing, I devoted chiefly to the purchase of cigars, parrots, preserves, and curiosities, which are obtained for a trifling price at Asuncion. After a round of visits, 'pour prendre congé,' I went to the police-office for my passport, as I had written to the Chief of Police a week before, soliciting the same. My messenger had called five or six times before he was able to find that unpopular, uncourteous, and invisible functionary. On presenting myself, I found a barefooted policeman, who had had much difficulty, on my first arrival, in understanding to what category of human animals an Editor belonged; and although I politely accosted this illiterate official three times, he never condescended to reply, but continued

some obscene jests with two fellows standing at the door. At length he enquired of me "whether I considered myself in my own house for intruding on the corporal when he was busy," to which I made no further reply than demanding a passport for the Editor of the Standard. The fellow laughed at me; so I went to see the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and this gentleman, apologising for the rudeness I had suffered, promised to send my passport to the hotel, which he did.

My ruffled feelings were, however, soothed when I went to the Capitania for my ticket, to Corrientes. The clerk handed me the same, and, when I opened my purse, declared he had received orders from the President to take no payment. In like manner the Captain passed my luggage without examination, and charged me no duty on same.

The steamer was advertised to sail on the 6th, but no hour was specified, and on my going aboard at noon I found she could not leave before evening. The purser promised to send a sailor to advise me as soon as the fires should be lighted, I therefore returned to the hotel to write a valedictory to my colleague of the *Semanario*, who had sent me, the night before, a present of Du Graty's valuable work.

I was not sorry at the prospect of soon escaping from tropical heat to the milder climate of Buenos Ayres, but this did not prevent me from regretting to part, perhaps for ever, from the many kind friends I had met at Asuncion My countrymen had received me with the cordiality of an old acquaintance, the President and Minister Lorjes had treated me as if I were an Envoy Extraordinary &c. and the inhabitants in general used me with the most liberal hospitality.

At 9 p. m. we steamed out of Asuncion with 12 passengers, including D. Federico Elortondo of Buenos Ayres, who had recovered his health under the care of Francia's physician, and, in gratitude, almost filled the Paraná S.S. with an immense stock of presents, for friends in B Ayres. The captain, Herrera, was a gentlemanly and agreeable companion, who loved to talk of Europe, from which he had just returned, after placing 27 of his countrymen, to study, in London, and 6 in Paris.

Next day we had long and continuous rains, which cooled the atmosphere, and by 11 p. m. (7th) we arrived at Humaita. Here we transhipped to the *Igurey*, a first-rate and commodious steamer, the last built at the arsenal. By daybreak several of the passengers went ashore to visit the encampment, and at 9 a. m. all the cargo was got in and we started for Corrientes, where we shall arrive (D. V.) about noon.

I will, however, make but a brief stay, for I am anxious to see again the scene of my labors, and I think there are few who leave B. Ayres for a tour of the interior but sigh to return, before their journey is ended.

COTTON AT CAA-CAATI AND EMPEDRADO.

Corrientes Jan. 9th 1864.

I went, last night, to visit Governor Lagrana, who was very glad to see me returned from Paraguay, and hoped I intended to remain here some weeks He reminded me of my proposed excursions to Caa-caati and Empedrado, but I had already experienced so many difficulties in travelling in this province, that I declined to undertake the first and longer journey (10) miles), and stated that I would go to Bella Vista via Empedrado, overland. Sor Lagrana informed me that he had received a letter from Messrs Bates Stokes (a mistake for Messrs Drabble bros.) of B.

Ayres, offering three silver reals (19d) per lb, cleaned cotton. I advised him to form an association, and purchase some of Consul Hutchinson's gins, which cost only five doubloons, as there was at present no means of cleaning the cotton at Corrientes. He complained of the want of public spirit, and said Mr. Lix would be the only proper person for looking after such things. As I intended starting to-day for Empedrado, I took my final adieu of the Governor, and his Excellency was kind enough to make me present of a beautiful counterpane, made of wild cotton, and embroidered by some ladies of his family: he also gave me a sample of the strange staple, which is light as gossamer, glossy as silk, and yet has been pronounced useless, by English manufacturers. The counterpane weighs eight pounds and will last for a life time, being equally warm and durable. The wild cotton, which abounds in many places, might be turned to much account if new machinery were made for it, as was necessary with alpaca wool, at first declared worthless and now highly appreciated. I will send the counterpane and sample to the Manchester Association, that they may determine whether machinery cannot be got, to turn out such splendid specimens of manufacture.

I learned this morning from Minister Camelino that he had good news from Caa-caati, and that Sor Insaurralde's settlement of eighty poor families had some 300,000 cotton hills in a thriving condition. Dr. Camelino again promised to raise a census, through the Justices of Peace, of all the cotton planted in the province, to form an appendix to my travels: also a plan of the town and port of Lavalle (proposed as the site for an English colony), which he had ordered a surveyor to execute. He expressed every confidence that ten times the amount of cotton will be laid down next year; and lamented that it could not be made compulsory. I urged upon him the necessity of providing gins and presses, and he informed me that Mr. Lix had already written to beg same from the Manchester Association, but there was a difficulty about the funds, and he feared they would be forced to send it to B. Ayres in the seed. I then offered him the gin remaining in the *Standard* office, on condition that he would guarantee me the value in cotton. He, however, desired me to treat with Mr. Lix.

On my asking for horses and attendants, as in Paraguay, in order to proceed to Empedrado the Minister said there was much difficulty and little convenience in supplying such means of land-travelling, and advised me rather to hire a boat and go down by water. This would be both dangerous and troublesome, and I refused, whereupon Dr. Camelino told me it was hardly worth while going there, as one half the original plantation (20',000) had perished, but the Empedrado society still expected to cover expenses and give a good dividend on the small capital invested.

We parted with mutual expressions of regard, and I abandoned the idea of seeing any more cotton in this province.

BELLA VISTA PLANTATIONS.

Jan, 12th 1864.

Before leaving Corrientes, yesterday, I had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. Lix; I promised him that I would consult my brother about sending him our gin, on the terms I had stated to Dr. Camelino, and lent him two volumes of the U. S. Patent-office reports, containing valuable information about cotton-planting. He is most anxious to get up a joint stock Co. for purchasing cleaning and exporting cotton, and

declared his willingness to guarantee four doubloons a month to any competent classifier who would come to Corrientes. On the previous evening I had paid my *devoirs* to the amiable families of Billinghurst, Labougle and Vivar, and to the editor of *El Progreso*.

The Esmeralda weighed anchor at 10 a.m. and we dropped down the river, passing the Latorre and Derqui quintas before noon, and coming abreast of Empedrado by 1 p. m. The day was fine, the company pleasant, and the views charming. Owing to the river's recent rise, we were enabled to follow the coast of Corrientes, and before sunset the picturesque hill-side of Bella Vista, with its splendid foliage and white buildings, was in sight. As the steamer passes the night here, on her downward trip, it is usual to get up a ball to which all the passengers are invited. Accordingly we found the Custom-house surrounded by a crowd of handsome, well dressed girls, who seemed to enhance the beauty of the perspective, so well worthy its flattering name.

Leaving my companions to converse with these nymphs, I went in quest of Mr. Henry Hall, the only English resident, and who could give me details about the plantations. After some time I found him at the priest's house, and we entered into a lively chat, in which Padre Giuseppe joined: this priest had fought under Garibaldi at the siege of Rome in 1849, and professed a great contempt not only for Pio Nono, but for the Christian religion, begging me to send him, from B. Ayres, a copy of Renan's Life of Christ. As to cotton, Mr. Hall stated that about half-a-million hills had been raised but more than three-fourths perished, and the planters were much discouraged. The seed procured from the *Standard* office shared the common fate. When we remember that the American cotton Association, which tried a plantation here in 1853, also failed, we must regard Bella Vista as unlucky, or the soil ill adapted.

Padre Giuseppe, has a remarkable relic, a lance of heavy dark wood highly polished and about 12 feet long, which was taken from an Indian cacique in a skirmish in the Gran Chaco: the savage boasted that with it he had killed the missionary of Sor Arce's expedition.

Bella Vista is a very straggling place, and some of the roads are impeded by large pools. There is a place called Café, but no coffee was to be had. Mr. Hall offered me hospitality if I would stay to visit his quinta or the cotton-fields of S. Roque, but the latter are very trifling, and I resolved not to remain. A hermitical life seems to have lost its charms for Mr. H. who declares he will shortly remove to B. Ayres; he accompanied me as far as Sor Caceres' house, where the ball was to come off, and here I passed a pleasant evening joking with the village beauties. The natural grace of these girls was superior to the *haut ton* of aristocratic circles in those remote European capitals, whose names have hardly penetrated into the wilds of S. America: the dancers displayed taste and symmetry in every movement, the quadrilles being the only figures I knew. About 2 a.m. we accompanied the ladies home, and then visited *en masse* the custom house inspector, who had wine and beer laid out for us. Taking adieu of Bella Vista and its friendly inhabitants, with a serenade around the plaza, we came on board, and before dawn steamed out for Goya.

ESTANCIA OF RATEL.

Goya, January 13th 1864.

Among the passengers from Bella Vista is a young Frenchman, the mayor-domo of Sor Ximenez' estancia on the

river Batel, about fifty miles distant from the port at which we are anchored. He tells me that one half of the cotton has missed, and not more than 30,000 plants remain. Each of the tenants half squatter, half-servant, has been obliged to plant 100 or more *linos*, receiving half the proceeds, but the want of machinery to clean the cotton, and of transport to convey it hither, are serious checks, which prevent much enthusiasm in the enterprise. The Macartney gin which we gave Sor Ximenez was safely carried from B. Ayres to the estancia, and, after considerable difficulty, put up, in one of the out houses, but it could not be worked. Although very simple, and set in working order before Sor Ximenez removed it from the *Standard* office, it is now quite useless, as the peons refuse to undergo the awful work of turning the wheel, and the cotton passes through the rollers uncleaned, there being no intelligent person to adjust the screws properly. Sor Ximenez has some quintals of cotton, with which he intends to pay for the gin, but he will wait till this year's crop be collected to send all together, as the former quantity is not worth the heavy labor and expense of freight. Perhaps he may meet some steam-boat engineer who will make a trip to his estancia and set the gin right: if not, he has no alternative but send it to the city of Corrientes, where it is much wanted, and there are several skilful mechanics. If I remember rightly, the price of the gin, including expenses in B. Ayres, was £18.

The Batel estancia will no doubt become a cotton focus, but it suffers some disadvantage from the distance to Goya, although small craft may ascend the stream from the Parana and save the troublesome land carriage. It is to be desired that other estancieros imitate Sor Ximenez in his arrangement with the squatter-tenants; and a joint stock Co. might successfully plant the estancia Batel, as the owner desires, for the samples which were sent to Manchester, through the *Standard* office, received very flattering notice.

There are at present no other plantations in the district of Goya, but Sor Garcia promises to experiment largely next October. I had some idea of remaining here fifteen days, in order to visit the Batel estancia, and Dr. Newkirk has just sent me an invitation to call on him, but there are rumors that the camp is unsafe from runaways of Flores' army in the Banda Oriental and that General Caceres has made a revolution and is marching on Goya. Under these circumstances I continue my voyage down stream. General Aguilar and others of Flores' officers embarked here for B. Ayres on the 28th ult., Aguilar being severely wounded, with two musket balls in the shoulder, and as no medical assistance could be had in the rebel camp, he and his staff were for some months trying to escape President Berro's forces, and ultimately succeeded in crossing the river Uruguay and province of Corrientes.

DOWN THE RIVER

Esquina, January 13th 1864.

We have had a pleasant run from Goya this morning, and expect to reach La Paz to night, for whereas our steamer makes only two leagues per hour up stream, she comes four leagues down, the current making a league an hour either way; hence we descend so much quicker, and all the fares down the river are much less than going up. I have nothing new to say of Esquina, but my fellow passenger, Mme. Schwitz, is greatly pleased with the place, her husband, who is coming aboard to receive her, having recently taken an estancia, as I *before mentioned*, on

advantageous terms : for 2 square leagues he pays a rent of $130 per annum, and having bought a large number of milch cows at 4$, he intends embarking extensively in the cheese-making business. There is no cotton in this department, although the soil would probably answer, and I hope that Mr. Hayes, who is member of the Municipality, will bear out the go-ahead character of his ancestors by introducing this branch of industry. It is strange that sheep farming is not tried here, as I am told the climate and pasture are suitable, and the distance from B. Ayres is after all not so great (170 leagues). Equina and Goya suffer considerably from being so much removed (a league) from the Parana, but this cannot be remedied as the banks here are very low, and the bluffs far inland. Passengers go up to town by the 'arroyo,' in small boats.

COTTON OF LA PAZ.

La Paz, January 13th, 1864.

This out-lying district of Entre Rios would scarce deserve mention for its cotton, if we estimated only the relative number of plants laid down last year. But Mr. Greenway's effort to teach the natives the mode and value of such cultivation calls for special notice : this gentleman, who has a sheep farm some three leagues inland, was surprised, on settling down here last year, to perceive a number of gigantic cotton-plants growing wild around his house, and he procured seed from the *Standard* office to lay down 20,000 hills. They came up irregularly, and although tended with every care, mostly failed ; for whether owing to a worm, as is the general impression, or to drought or other causes, only 3000 have been left in a prosperous vitality, and the crop will not suffice to cover expenses.

Unfortunately there is little room to hope that cotton-planting will ever reach importance here, for there is no foreign population, and the native gauchos are even more idle and savage than in the neighboring provinces. Several murders have recently been committed : in some cases the assassins have been arrested. Mr. Haycroft has a very fine estancia, near the town, and some five or six Englishmen have successfully tried sheep farming, for which the land is well suited, rents being almost nominal. The surface being broken with wood and water, there is less danger of drought and much greater facility for procuring timber than in the camps of B. Ayres. Freight is also very cheap, to B. Ayres, and this department holds out more inducements to sheep farmers than any other on the Paraná. Still the first settlers must find it too lonely for enjoyment, and perhaps years will elapse before these prairies be rescued from barbarity and horned cattle.

The sample of wild cotton from this district, exactly resembles that of Corrientes. How *Gossypium arboreum* first came here, it is difficult to guess, and I believe botanists say it is not indigenous. Like the island fruits of the Paraná, the natives suppose it to be the result of the birds dropping seeds in their flight, but this is the less probable as I remarked an almost total absence of the feathered tribe in my wanderings through these silent gardens of Nature. More likely the Jesuits, whose scene of labors extended itself over the adjacent province (Corrientes), introduced this industry *en passant*. But at every step we find strong proofs of the energy and toil of the men of the past century, and a complete demoralization in their room. Argentines for the most part are content to look with a curious eye on such relics, without a desire to emu-

late the industry of their forefathers or improve their own miserable condition. Wild cotton trees are as unprofitable as the fossils of the Megatherium, and in the same manner that zoologists wonder why Nature ever created such monsters, our modern republicans shrug their shoulders in surprise that their Spanish progenitors took so much trouble.

THE PARANA COTTON ASSOCIATION.

When we cast anchor in front of the ex-capital of the Argentine Confederation the heat was so excessive that many of the passengers refused to go ashore. The Custom-house is situate at the foot of the 'barranca,' and here I met sundry officials taking mâte, who, like too many of their countrymen, for want of more serious occupation, discussed politics between the intervals of breakfast and siesta. Mr. Myer's carriage took us up a very inclined road to the town, and the obliging steam-boat agent offered his services as 'cicerone,' to show the curiosities of the place First is the Church of San Miguel, commenced 15 years ago, but abandoned when half built, and now a refuge for all kinds of vermin. There are, however, two good churches in the town, and these are quite enough, as the population does not exceed 8,000.

The grand plaza is very pretty, and the buildings on all its sides modern and tasteful, most of them having been constructed under Presidents Urquiza and Derqui, in the interval between the fall of Rosas, 1852, and the battle of Pavon, 1861. The Legislative Chambers are a fine range, occupying the north side: the President's palace also merits attention. But the sceptre of metropolitan sway is gone—

> In Venice Tasso's echoes are no more,
> And silent rows the sougless gondolier.

Parana is now all but deserted, the only signs of vitality being a seditious newspaper, 'El Litoral,' and a theatre sometimes visited by strolling players. The Club-house is perhaps the greatest monument of desolation, and the very waiters have acquired a mournful look from showing visitors the quondam scenes of diplomatic revelry and their present profane uses. The ball-room has been cut into two bed chambers and a kitchen, for a coffee house; the billiard-room and reading saloon are let out to a hair-dresser, and nothing remains of former greatness

Passing by the theatre I found it open, and went in. It is neat, and bears few traces of neglect, although now opened for the first time after a collapse of two years. It can hold about 700 persons, being much the size of Victoria Theatre, Buenos Ayres. Mme. Builli was to sing some operatic airs same evening, but I fear the speculation cannot have been lucrative, as the inhabitants are very poor, all their fortune being sunk in debts to the late Argentine Government. Mr. Myer's credits alone amount to 200,000 silver dollars. Such is the ruin of the town that splendidly furnished houses have been given rent free to foreigners, on the faith that they will not steal anything.

It is strange that this retrograde district should have been the first to join in the Cotton crusade; and there is yet reason to hope that Parana will recover its former importance, if not as metropolis, as a depot of the new staple. Villa Urquiza is a colony about five leagues distant from the city, and the Government of Entre Rios, with a laudable desire of fomenting the cultivation of cotton, granted a square league of land for the purpose, in the vicinity of the colony. Messrs. Gelaber and Cigorraga formed an association, fenced in a large tract of land, and procured

seed from Consul Hutchinson and the 'Standard' office, to lay down some 70 acres under cotton. Their plantation comprised 20,000 cotton hills, but more than half has been destroyed by a worm, and they have renewed their labors, sowing the fresh supply (100lb.) which I sent them in care of Mr. Myers. D. Manuel Agulla, a shop-keeper of Buenos Ayres, has also experimented largely; his plantation, I understand, amounts to 50,000 hills, and two or three others have imitated such example. It is to be regretted that, with trifling exceptions, the colonists have not availed themselves of the gratuitous offer of seed. Nevertheless the perseverance of the Gelaber Company has had a good effect, and numerous parties declare their intention of sowing next Spring. The crop this year may realise 30 bales.

The Gelaber Association have had the kindness to pass a vote of thanks to the Editors of the 'Standard;' and I learn that they intend to purchase one of Consul Hutchinson's gins. The cotton fields in Diamante are in the same state as last year, when we gave them such an extravagant price for their seed-cotton as to incur a reprimand from the Manchester Association. There will be small lots of cotton this year, from Gualeguaychu, where Mr. Black and others have planted. General Urquiza, I believe, has also sown some at his Palace of San Jose, but the total yield outside Parana will hardly amount to ten bales.

I regret very much that the steamer does not wait till to-morrow, as this would enable me to visit the plantations at Villa Urquiza; but I cannot remain a week here, for my occupations in Buenos Ayres already claim my return, and the Esmeralda is getting up steam.

RETURN TO BUENOS AYRES

January 15th, 1864.

We are again in sight of Rosario, and to-morrow (D.V.) I shall have the pleasure of returning to my adopted home, Buenos Ayres, from which I have been nearly two months absent. On my departure, I purposed making sundry excursions through Santa Fe, Entre Rios, Corrientes, and Paraguay. I have been somewhat disappointed, for there are no cotton fields in Santa Fe, notwithstanding the large quantities of seed sent to that province; in Corrientes I have been unable to travel in the interior, owing to the want of conveyance, but there are sufficient plantations to call for public attention and give promise of tangible results.

In Paraguay, thanks to the kindness of the Government, I have been provided with means of travelling, and realised my dreams of thousands of acres under cotton, seeing with my own eyes the beneficent fruits of peace and a stable Government, and the facilities for cotton-growing in that country. In Entre Rios, a Paraguayan would be tempted to smile at the littleness of their efforts for industry, but to one accustomed to Argentine sloth, and disgusted with the pigmy politicians of Buenos Ayres, there is real cause for congratulation. One acre of cotton planted in this Republic is worth, for moral effect, more than a hundred in Paraguay.

In my wanderings, I have at least learned something of the prospects of cotton in these countries; I have urged many to try this industry, and they seemed to accept my advice with alacrity. I have aided a little the designs of the Manchester Association, and tried to do a public service.

Before many years, I have every

hope that the magnitude of the success will more than overshadow the names of the first promoters of Cotton in these countries; but should posterity discover that they are indebted to some humble foreigners for the new staple, as they have been for the splendid wool industry which now forms half our exports, I may be permitted to hope that Argentines will be more grateful than they have been for the aid England lent them to achieve their Independence, or for the Irish immigration which has increased their rural interests a thousand-fold.

NOTES AND ERRATA.

Page 71. Several persons descended the Vermejo before Sr. Arce, but he is the chief navigator of late years.

82. Line 10: for 'Tucuman,' read "all parts of this province."

95. Lake *Taipacua*: this was the name I learned from my guide, but the books and maps call it 'Ypacarai.'

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